Quick action in cafeteria earns OU Engineering camp coordinator a Lifesaving Award

It was a normal School of Engineering and Computer Science summer camp day when students went to lunch on August 6. However, all that changed in an instant when a 9-year-old boy began choking on carrots and started having difficulty breathing.

Marianne Donoghue, special programs coordinator for the camp, recognized the seriousness of the situation. She realized the boy was choking and administered the Heimlich maneuver (now called abdominal thrusts), which cleared his airway, allowing him to breathe again.

When Oakland University Police Department officers responded to the scene, they found the student was breathing on his own due to the quick actions of Marianne. He was subsequently transported to Crittenton Hospital for follow up medical care and has since made a full recovery.

“The efforts made by Marianne Donoghue on August 6 were directly responsible for saving a life,” said OUPD Chief Mark B. Gordon at her citation award ceremony on Aug. 25. “In appreciation for her decisive action, we present this Lifesaving Award on behalf of the OUPD and our entire University community.”
Marianne with OUPD leaders at her citation ceremony on August 25.