

Lesnik Steven H  
Form 4  
March 05, 2012

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Lesnik Steven H

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
CAREER EDUCATION CORP  
[CECO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
03/01/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
PRESIDENT, CEO & CHAIRMAN

CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION, 231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code V  | Amount or Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/01/2012                           |  |                                | A   | 114,811 <sup>(1)</sup>  | A  | \$ 0 118,811 <sup>(1)</sup> D     |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$ 8.63  | 03/01/2012                           |  | A                              | 114,811   | 03/01/2013 03/01/2022                                    | Common Stock  |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)  | \$ 8.63  | 03/01/2012                           |  | A                              | 143,513   | <u>(2)</u> 03/01/2022                                    | Common Stock  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                                 |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                         | Other |
| Lesnik Steven H<br>CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION<br>231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD<br>SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173 | X             |           | PRESIDENT,<br>CEO &<br>CHAIRMAN |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Jeffrey D. Ayers, pursuant to POA for Steven H. Lesnik 03/05/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
  - (1) Includes 114,811 restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Career Education Corporation 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan, with each restricted stock unit representing a contingent right to receive one share of common stock. Each restricted stock unit shall cease to be restricted and shall become non-forfeitable on March 1, 2013, subject to the achievement of certain performance criteria on or prior to March 1, 2013.
  - (2) Exercisable as to the 143,513 underlying shares of common stock upon the later to occur of March 1, 2013 and the achievement of certain performance criteria.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.