

CAREER EDUCATION CORP  
 Form 4  
 May 15, 2008

**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 \*  
 Thornton Leslie T

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)  
 05/13/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP, 1825  
 EYE STREET NW

(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

WASHINGTON, DC 20006-5403

(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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code V Amount (D) Price   |  |                                   |

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)**

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|

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| Security<br>(Instr. 3)                           | or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Code<br>(Instr. 8) | Securities<br>Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) |                     |                    |                 |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |   |                         | Code               | V  | (A)              | (D)              | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |
| Employee<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy) | \$ 18.64  | 05/13/2008              | A                  |  | 24,000           |                  | <u>(1)</u>          | 05/12/2018         | Common<br>Stock | 24,000                              |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Thornton Leslie T<br>DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP<br>1825 EYE STREET NW<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20006-5403 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Leslie T.  
Thornton

05/13/2008

\*\*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) Immediately exercisable as to 8,000 of the underlying shares of Common Stock and exercisable as to 8,000 of the remaining underlying shares on each of May 13, 2009 and 2010.

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.