

Lesnik Steven H
 Form 3
 February 24, 2006

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

KEMPERSPORTS
 MANAGEMENT, 500
 SKOKIE BLVD., SUITE 444

(Street)

NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement

(Month/Day/Year)
 02/14/2006

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

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

5. 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

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security

5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D)

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

Date Exercisable Date Expiration Date

Title Amount or Number of

| | | | | Shares | | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|--------------|--------|----------|----------------------------------|---|
| Stock Option (right to buy) | ⌘ (1) | 02/13/2016 | Common Stock | 18,000 | \$ 34.86 | D | ⌘ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Lesnik Steven H KEMPERSPORTS MANAGEMENT 500 SKOKIE BLVD., SUITE 444 NORTHBROOK, IL 60062 | ⌘ X | ⌘ | ⌘ | ⌘ |

Signatures

/s/ Steven H.
Lesnik

02/20/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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 6,000 of the underlying shares of Common Stock and exercisable as to 6,000 of the remaining underlying shares on each of February 14, 2007 and 2008.

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.