

CAREER EDUCATION CORP  
 Form 4  
 May 22, 2006

**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 \*  
 Fireng Stephen C

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)  
 5550 PRAIRIE STONE  
 PARKWAY, SUITE 400  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/18/2006

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Pres., Univ. Division

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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)
Common Stock	05/18/2006		A	(A) Amount 10,000 (1)	\$ 0 11,427 (2)	D	
Common Stock					252	I	See footnote (3)

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

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 (9-02)

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

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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 30.8	05/18/2006		A	45,000	<sup>(4)</sup> 05/17/2016	Common Stock	45,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Fireng Stephen C 5550 PRAIRIE STONE PARKWAY SUITE 400 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195			Pres., Univ. Division	

## Signatures

/s/ Stephen C. Fireng  
Date: 05/22/2006

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) This grant of 10,000 shares of restricted stock was approved by the Company's Board of Directors on May 18, 2006.
- (2) 1,427 shares of which were purchased under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Under a marital settlement agreement, the reporting person has agreed to transfer 476 of these shares to his ex-wife.
- (3) The reporting person acquired beneficial ownership of these shares on April 8, 2005 upon his marriage to the owner of the shares, all of which were purchased under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (4) Exercisable as to 11,250 of the underlying shares on each of May 18, 2007, 2008, 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.