

Ayers Jeffrey David
 Form 4
 February 27, 2009

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Ayers Jeffrey David

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)
 2895 GREENSPPOINT PARKWAY,
 SUITE 600

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 02/25/2009

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 SVP, Genl Counsel, Corp Secy

(Street)
 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169

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

(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 (D) Price | | |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2009 | | A | | 13,819 (1) | A | \$ 0 38,569 D |

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

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 (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 | 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) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 26.15 | 02/25/2009 | | A | 21,540 | <u>(2)</u> | 02/25/2019 | Common Stock | 21,540 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| Ayers Jeffrey David 2895 GREENSPPOINT PARKWAY, SUITE 600 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169 | SVP, Genl Counsel, Corp Secy |

Signatures

Gail B. Rago, pursuant to Power of Attorney
 02/26/2009
 **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 restricted stock was approved by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors on February 25, 2009. This number represents the maximum number of shares that could become vested assuming full satisfaction of all vesting requirements.
- (2) Exercisable in four equal annual installments on each of February 25, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

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.