

Lespine Catherine
Form 3
August 31, 2012

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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â Lespine Catherine | | (Month/Day/Year) | CAREER EDUCATION CORP [CECO] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 08/21/2012 | |
| 231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD | | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| (Street) | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| SCHAUMBURG,Â ILÂ 60173 | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
| | | | (give title below) (specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| | | | Dir Gen Insec Group | |

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) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | 18,934 ⁽¹⁾ | D | Â |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of | |

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| | | | | Shares | | (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|---|-------|------------|--------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | Â (2) | 02/17/2013 | Common Stock | 15,000 | \$ 23.32 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | Â (3) | 03/02/2020 | Common Stock | 4,096 | \$ 29.02 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | Â (2) | 05/19/2015 | Common Stock | 5,000 | \$ 34.7 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Lespine Catherine 231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173 | Â | Â | Â Dir Gen Insec Group | Â |

Signatures

By: Gail B Rago, pursuant to POA For: Catherine Lespine 08/31/2012

__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) Includes 12,134 unvested restricted shares and 4,200 shares which have vested but remain subject to restrictions on transfer, granted pursuant to the Career Education Corporation 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan.
- (2) Immediately exercisable.
- (3) Exercisable in four equal annual installments on each of March 3, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; however, the underlying shares cannot be transferred until March 3, 2014 except in limited circumstances.

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.