

Lesnik Steven H  
 Form 3  
 February 24, 2006

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**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)

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

5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

(Check all applicable)

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

KEMPERSPORTS  
 MANAGEMENT, 500  
 SKOKIE BLVD., SUITE 444

(Street)

NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

(City) (State) (Zip)

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)

**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)

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.