

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Form 10-Q
October 29, 2013
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2013

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-34211

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | |
|--|--|
| DELAWARE (State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation or organization) | 20-3356009 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
| 3300 W. Camelback Road Phoenix, Arizona 85017 | |
| (Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices) | |
| (602) 639-7500 | |
| (Registrant's telephone number, including area code) | |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Edgar Filing: Grand Canyon Education, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The total number of shares of common stock outstanding as of October 23, 2013, was 44,986,909.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

FORM 10-Q

INDEX

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| <u>PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u> | 3 |
| <u>Item 1 Financial Statements</u> | 3 |
| <u>Item 2 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 18 |
| <u>Item 3 Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 26 |
| <u>Item 4 Controls and Procedures</u> | 27 |
| <u>PART II OTHER INFORMATION</u> | 27 |
| <u>Item 1 Legal Proceedings</u> | 27 |
| <u>Item 1A Risk Factors</u> | 27 |
| <u>Item 2 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 27 |
| <u>Item 3 Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | 28 |
| <u>Item 4 Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | 28 |
| <u>Item 5 Other Information</u> | 28 |
| <u>Item 6 Exhibits</u> | 29 |
| <u>SIGNATURES</u> | 30 |
| 101.INS XBRL Instance Document | |
| 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema | |
| 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase | |
| 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase | |
| 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase | |
| 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase | |

Table of Contents**PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Consolidated Income Statements****(Unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| (In thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| Net revenue | \$ 152,399 | \$ 133,568 | \$ 435,892 | \$ 369,959 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Instructional costs and services | 64,704 | 57,354 | 186,448 | 161,584 |
| Admissions advisory and related, including \$953 and \$645 for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, and \$2,574 and \$1,666 for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, to related parties | 24,578 | 22,342 | 70,917 | 62,702 |
| Advertising | 15,498 | 12,909 | 45,947 | 38,015 |
| Marketing and promotional | 1,299 | 1,199 | 4,117 | 3,047 |
| General and administrative | 9,035 | 8,561 | 26,064 | 23,806 |
| Total costs and expenses | 115,114 | 102,365 | 333,493 | 289,154 |
| Operating income | 37,285 | 31,203 | 102,399 | 80,805 |
| Interest expense | (528) | (154) | (1,635) | (439) |
| Interest and other income | 1,502 | 16 | 3,759 | 52 |
| Income before income taxes | 38,259 | 31,065 | 104,523 | 80,418 |
| Income tax expense | 15,714 | 12,594 | 41,969 | 31,880 |
| Net income | \$ 22,545 | \$ 18,471 | \$ 62,554 | \$ 48,538 |
| Earnings per share: | | | | |
| Basic income per share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.42 | \$ 1.40 | \$ 1.09 |
| Diluted income per share | \$ 0.49 | \$ 0.41 | \$ 1.36 | \$ 1.07 |
| Basic weighted average shares outstanding | 44,963 | 44,365 | 44,631 | 44,395 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 46,424 | 45,339 | 45,936 | 45,220 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income****(Unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| (In thousands) | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 22,545 | \$ 18,471 | \$ 62,554 | \$ 48,538 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | | |
| Unrealized net gains on available-for-sale securities | 26 | | 15 | |
| Unrealized (losses) gains on hedging derivatives, net of taxes of \$56 and \$26 for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, and \$310 and \$72 for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively | (75) | 33 | 448 | 95 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 22,496 | \$ 18,504 | \$ 63,017 | \$ 48,633 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

| (In thousands, except par value) | September 30, 2013 (Unaudited) | December 31, 2012 |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| ASSETS: | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 106,816 | \$ 105,111 |
| Restricted cash and cash equivalents | 49,800 | 55,964 |
| Investments | 63,492 | |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$9,465 and \$8,657 at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively | 7,986 | 7,951 |
| Note receivable secured by real estate | | 27,000 |
| Income taxes receivable | 13 | |
| Deferred income taxes | 6,444 | 5,481 |
| Other current assets | 17,913 | 12,667 |
| Total current assets | 252,464 | 214,174 |
| Property and equipment, net | 328,423 | 269,162 |
| Restricted cash | | 225 |
| Prepaid royalties | 4,806 | 5,299 |
| Goodwill | 2,941 | 2,941 |
| Other assets | 5,441 | 3,122 |
| Total assets | \$ 594,075 | \$ 494,923 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY: | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 22,934 | \$ 14,174 |
| Accrued compensation and benefits | 16,163 | 18,812 |
| Accrued liabilities | 16,542 | 17,467 |
| Income taxes payable | 989 | 8,704 |
| Student deposits | 52,077 | 57,745 |
| Deferred revenue | 58,503 | 28,614 |
| Due to related parties | 494 | 523 |
| Current portion of capital lease obligations | 89 | 87 |
| Current portion of notes payable | 6,605 | 6,601 |
| Total current liabilities | 174,396 | 152,727 |
| Capital lease obligations, less current portion | 520 | 587 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 6,293 | 7,405 |
| Deferred income taxes, noncurrent | 10,412 | 7,045 |
| Notes payable, less current portion | 88,137 | 93,100 |

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total liabilities | 279,758 | 260,864 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders equity | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 10,000 shares authorized; 0 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 | | |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 100,000 shares authorized; 48,792 and 47,136 shares issued and 45,982 and 44,716 shares outstanding at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively | 488 | 471 |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 2,810 and 2,420 shares of common stock at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 | (48,145) | (39,136) |
| Additional paid-in capital | 128,366 | 102,133 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | 240 | (223) |
| Accumulated earnings | 233,368 | 170,814 |
| Total stockholders equity | 314,317 | 234,059 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders equity | \$ 594,075 | \$ 494,923 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Consolidated Statement of Stockholders Equity****(In thousands)****(Unaudited)**

| | Common Stock | | Treasury Stock | | Accumulated Additional Paid-in Capital | | Other Comprehensive Income(Loss) | | Accumulated Earnings | Total |
|--|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | Shares | Par Value | Shares | Cost | Capital | Income(Loss) | Earnings | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | 47,136 | \$ 471 | 2,420 | \$ (39,136) | \$ 102,133 | \$ (223) | \$ 170,814 | | \$ 234,059 | |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | 463 | 62,554 | | 63,017 | |
| Common stock purchased for treasury | | | 333 | (8,036) | | | | | (8,036) | |
| Restricted shares forfeited | | | 17 | | | | | | | |
| Exercise of stock options | 1,070 | 11 | | | 14,805 | | | | 14,816 | |
| Excess tax benefits | | | | | 3,766 | | | | 3,766 | |
| Share-based compensation | 586 | 6 | 40 | (973) | 7,662 | | | | 6,695 | |
| Balance at September 30, 2013 | 48,792 | \$ 488 | 2,810 | \$ (48,145) | \$ 128,366 | \$ 240 | \$ 233,368 | | \$ 314,317 | |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(Unaudited)**

| (In thousands) | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | September 30, | 2012 |
| | 2013 | 2012 |
| Cash flows provided by operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 62,554 | \$ 48,538 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Share-based compensation | 7,668 | 5,748 |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation | (3,678) | (336) |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | | 48 |
| Provision for bad debts | 14,881 | 13,492 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 18,602 | 15,784 |
| Loss on asset disposal | | 202 |
| Gain on proceeds received from note receivable | (3,646) | |
| Deferred income taxes | 2,404 | (2,152) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Restricted cash and cash equivalents | 6,249 | (912) |
| Accounts receivable | (14,916) | (10,552) |
| Prepaid expenses and other | (5,854) | (2,671) |
| Due to/from related parties | (29) | 101 |
| Accounts payable | 1,859 | (962) |
| Accrued liabilities and employee related liabilities | (3,753) | 9,046 |
| Income taxes receivable/payable | (4,055) | 22,464 |
| Deferred rent | (721) | 612 |
| Deferred revenue | 29,889 | 24,956 |
| Student deposits | (5,668) | 1,328 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 101,786 | 124,734 |
| Cash flows used in investing activities: | | |
| Capital expenditures | (59,168) | (73,619) |
| Purchase of land and building related to offsite development | (11,209) | (818) |
| Purchases of investments | (101,040) | |
| Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments | 37,548 | |
| Restricted funds held for derivative collateral | 140 | 180 |
| Proceeds received from note receivable | 29,187 | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (104,542) | (74,257) |
| Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities: | | |
| Principal payments on notes payable and capital lease obligations | (5,024) | (1,772) |

Edgar Filing: Grand Canyon Education, Inc. - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Repurchase of common shares including shares withheld in lieu of income taxes | (9,009) | (4,925) |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation | 3,678 | 336 |
| Net proceeds from exercise of stock options | 14,816 | 4,339 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 4,461 | (2,022) |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 1,705 | 48,455 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 105,111 | 21,189 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ 106,816 | \$ 69,644 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information | | |
| Cash paid for interest | \$ 1,592 | \$ 446 |
| Cash paid for income taxes | \$ 44,108 | \$ 19,615 |
| Cash received for income tax refunds | \$ 715 | \$ 7,654 |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment included in accounts payable | \$ 6,901 | \$ 7,636 |
| Tax benefit of Spirit warrant intangible | \$ 201 | \$ 199 |
| Shortfall tax expense from share-based compensation | \$ 206 | \$ 200 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

1. Nature of Business

Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, the University) is a regionally accredited provider of postsecondary education services focused on offering graduate and undergraduate degree programs in its core disciplines of education, healthcare, business, and liberal arts. The University offers courses online, on ground at its approximately 115 acre traditional ground campus in Phoenix, Arizona and onsite at facilities it leases and at facilities owned by third party employers. The University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The University's wholly-owned subsidiaries are primarily used to facilitate expansion of the University campus.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the University and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Unaudited Interim Financial Information

The accompanying unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of the University have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, consistent in all material respects with those applied in its financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Such interim financial information is unaudited but reflects all adjustments that in the opinion of management are necessary for the fair presentation of the interim periods presented. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. These consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the University's audited financial statements and footnotes included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 from which the December 31, 2012 balance sheet information was derived.

Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

A significant portion of the University's revenue is received from students who participate in government financial aid and assistance programs. Restricted cash and cash equivalents primarily represent amounts received from the federal and state governments under various student aid grant and loan programs, such as Title IV. The University receives these funds subsequent to the completion of the authorization and disbursement process and holds them for the benefit of the student. The U.S. Department of Education (Department of Education) requires Title IV funds collected in advance of student billings to be segregated in a separate cash or cash equivalent account until the course begins. The University records all of these amounts as a current asset in restricted cash and cash equivalents until the cash is no longer restricted, at which time such amounts are reclassified as cash and cash equivalents. The majority of these

funds remain as restricted cash and cash equivalents for an average of 60 to 90 days from the date of receipt.

In addition, the counterparty to the University's interest rate swap made a collateral call in 2010 and the pledged collateral is classified as restricted cash. The pledged collateral was \$85 and \$225 as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. The University reports changes in restricted cash related to derivative collateral as investing cash flows in its consolidated statement of cash flows.

Investments

The University considers its investments in municipal securities as available-for-sale securities. Available-for-sale securities are carried at fair value, determined using Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs, with the use of inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets, with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, reported as a separate component of other comprehensive income. Unrealized losses considered to be other-than-temporary are recognized currently in earnings. Amortization of premiums, accretion of discounts, interest and dividend income and realized gains and losses are included in interest and other income.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

Note Receivable

The University purchased a note receivable from a financial institution at fair market value in the fourth quarter of 2012 for \$27,000. The note bore interest at 11%, which represented the 6% rate of the loan plus the 5% default rate. The principal and most of the interest due on the note was paid in March 2013 resulting in the full return on investment of the note receivable and an additional gain in interest income and other income of \$2,187 on the loan. However, the borrower has disputed certain amounts remaining due under the note agreement, including default interest in the amount of \$432, a late payment penalty in the amount of \$1,392, and a statutory trustee's fee in the amount of \$139. The funds disputed by the borrower, plus interest thereon, were deposited into an escrow account with the clerk of the Maricopa County Superior Court pending resolution of the disputed issues. In the third quarter of 2013, the court ruled in favor of the University with respect to the late penalty and default interest accrued thereon. Accordingly, the University recorded an other asset and interest and other income of \$1,459 for the three months ended September 30, 2013. The remaining default interest and statutory trustee's fee components of the original disputed amount, plus interest accruing thereon at 11%, continue a resolution process through the court, have been treated as a gain contingency and will not be recorded as a receivable or income until resolution is reached.

Derivatives and Hedging

Derivative financial instruments are recorded on the balance sheet as assets or liabilities and re-measured at fair value at each reporting date. For derivatives designated as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is reported as a component of other comprehensive income and reclassified into earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing either hedge ineffectiveness or hedge components excluded from the assessment of effectiveness are recognized in current earnings.

Derivative financial instruments enable the University to manage its exposure to interest rate risk. The University does not engage in any derivative instrument trading activity. Credit risk associated with the University's derivatives is limited to the risk that a derivative counterparty will not perform in accordance with the terms of the contract. Exposure to counterparty credit risk is considered low because these agreements have been entered into with institutions with strong credit ratings, and they are expected to perform fully under the terms of the agreements.

On June 30, 2009 and February 27, 2013, respectively, the University entered into an interest rate swap and an interest rate corridor to manage its 30 Day LIBOR interest exposure related to its variable rate debt. The fair value of the interest rate corridor instrument as of September 30, 2013 was \$1,808, which is included in other assets. The fair value of the interest rate swap is a liability of \$178 as of September 30, 2013, which is included in accrued liabilities, and \$390 as of December 31, 2012, which is included in other noncurrent liabilities. The fair values of each derivative instrument were determined using a hypothetical derivative transaction and Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs. These derivative instruments were originally designated as cash flow hedges of variable rate debt obligations.

The adjustment of \$448 and \$95 for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, for the effective portion of the gain/loss on the derivatives is included as a component of other comprehensive income, net of taxes.

The interest rate corridor instrument reduces variable interest rate risk starting March 1, 2013 through December 20, 2019 with a notional amount of \$85,871 as of September 30, 2013. The corridor instrument's terms permits the University to hedge its interest rate risk at several thresholds; the University pays variable interest monthly based on the 30 Day LIBOR rates until that index reaches 1.5%. If 30 Day LIBOR is equal to 1.5% through 3.0%, the University pays 1.5%. If 30 Day LIBOR exceeds 3.0%, the University pays actual 30 Day LIBOR less 1.5%.

The interest rate swap commenced on May 1, 2010 and continues each month thereafter until April 30, 2014 and has a notional amount of \$9,129 as of September 30, 2013. Under the terms of the agreement, the University receives 30 Day LIBOR and pays 3.245% fixed interest on the amortizing notional amount. Therefore, the University has hedged its exposure to future variable rate cash flows through April 30, 2014. The interest rate swap is not subject to a master netting arrangement and collateral has been called by the counterparty and reflected in a restricted cash account as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 in the amount of \$85 and \$225, respectively.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

As of September 30, 2013 no derivative ineffectiveness was identified for the interest rate swap. Any ineffectiveness in the University's derivative instrument designated as a hedge is reported in interest expense in the income statement. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, \$8 of credit risk was recorded in interest expense for the interest rate corridor and interest rate swap. At September 30, 2013, the University does not expect to reclassify gains or losses on derivative instruments from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into earnings during the next 12 months.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

As of September 30, 2013, the carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, account payable and accrued compensation and benefits and accrued liabilities expenses approximate their fair value based on the liquidity or the short-term maturities of these instruments. The carrying value of notes payable approximates fair value as it is based on variable rate index. The carrying value of capital lease obligations approximate fair value based upon market interest rates available to the University for debt of similar risk and maturities. Derivative financial instruments are carried at fair value, determined using Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs, with the use of inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

The fair value of investments, primarily municipal securities, was determined using Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs, with the use of inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets. The municipal securities are comprised of city and county bonds related to schools, water and sewer, utilities, transportation and housing. Because these securities are held by the University as investments, assessment of non-performance risk is not applicable as such considerations are only applicable in evaluating the fair value measurements for liabilities.

Revenue Recognition

Net revenues consist primarily of tuition and fees derived from courses taught by the University online, on ground at its traditional campus in Phoenix, Arizona, and onsite at facilities it leases and at facilities owned by third party employers, as well as from related educational resources that the University provides to its students, such as access to online materials. Tuition revenue and most fees from related educational resources are recognized pro-rata over the applicable period of instruction, net of scholarships provided by the University. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, the University's revenue was reduced by approximately \$75,668 and \$65,563, respectively, as a result of scholarships that the University offered to students. The University maintains an institutional tuition refund policy, which provides for all or a portion of tuition to be refunded if a student withdraws during stated refund periods. Certain states in which students reside impose separate, mandatory refund policies, which override the University's policy to the extent in conflict. If a student withdraws at a time when only a portion, or none, of the tuition is refundable, then in accordance with its revenue recognition policy, the University continues to recognize the tuition that was not refunded pro-rata over the applicable period of instruction. Since the University recognizes revenue pro-rata over the term of the course and because, under its institutional refund policy, the amount subject to refund is never greater than the amount of the revenue that has been deferred, under the University's

accounting policies revenue is not recognized with respect to amounts that could potentially be refunded. Sales tax collected from students is excluded from net revenues. Collected but unremitted sales tax is included as an accrued liability in the consolidated balance sheets. The University also charges online students an upfront learning management fee, which is deferred and recognized over the average expected term of a student. Costs that are direct and incremental to new online students are also deferred and recognized ratably over the average expected term of a student. Deferred revenue and student deposits in any period represent the excess of tuition, fees, and other student payments received as compared to amounts recognized as revenue on the income statement and are reflected as current liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet. The University's educational programs have starting and ending dates that differ from its fiscal quarters. Therefore, at the end of each fiscal quarter, a portion of revenue from these programs is not yet earned. Other revenues may be recognized as sales occur or services are performed.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

All students are required to select both a primary and secondary payment option with respect to amounts due to the University for tuition, fees and other expenses. The most common payment option for the University's students is financial aid. In instances where a student selects financial aid as the primary payment option, he or she often selects personal cash as the secondary option. If a student who has selected financial aid as his or her primary payment option withdraws prior to the end of a course but after the date that the University's institutional refund period has expired, the student will have incurred the obligation to pay the full cost of the course. If the withdrawal occurs before the date at which the student has earned 100% of his or her financial aid, the University will have a return to Title IV requirement and the student will owe the University all amounts incurred that are in excess of the amount of financial aid that the student earned and that the University is entitled to retain. In this case, the University must collect the receivable using the student's second payment option. In instances in which the students chose to receive living expense funds as part of his or her financial aid disbursement, the University is required to return the unearned portion of these funds as well and then collect these amounts from the student.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

The University records an allowance for doubtful accounts for estimated losses resulting from the inability, failure or refusal of its students to make required payments, which includes the recovery of financial aid funds advanced to a student for amounts in excess of the student's cost of tuition and related fees. The University determines the adequacy of its allowance for doubtful accounts based on an analysis of its historical bad debt experience, current economic trends, the aging of the accounts receivable and student status. The University applies reserves to its receivables based upon an estimate of the risk presented by the age of the receivables and student status. The University writes off accounts receivable balances at the earlier of the time the balances were deemed uncollectible, or one year after the revenue is generated. However, if a student becomes inactive, the University writes off the account 150 days after becoming delinquent. The University reflects accounts receivable with an offsetting allowance as long as management believes there is a reasonable possibility of collection. Bad debt expense is recorded as an instructional costs and services expense in the consolidated income statement.

Financial Statement Presentation

Effective during the first quarter of 2013, the University made changes in its presentation of operating expenses and reclassified prior periods to conform to the current presentation. The University determined that these changes would provide more meaningful information and are consistent with changes recently made by a number of other regionally accredited for-profit universities. Additionally, this new presentation better classifies its costs consistently with the operational changes the University has made related to the roles and responsibilities of its admissions personnel. Specifically we separated admissions advisory and related expenses from advertising, and marketing and promotional expenses as the admissions personnel role has evolved into one in which a substantial amount of their time is spent educating students not only during the admissions process but also through matriculation and during their program of study.

Instructional Costs and Services

Instructional costs and services consist primarily of costs related to the administration and delivery of the University's educational programs. This expense category includes salaries, benefits and share-based compensation for full-time and adjunct faculty and administrative personnel, information technology costs, bad debt expense, curriculum and new program development costs (which are expensed as incurred) and costs associated with other support groups that provide services directly to the students. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of educational services, primarily at the University's Phoenix, Arizona campus.

Admissions Advisory and Related

Admissions advisory and related expenses include salaries and benefits for admissions advisory personnel and, revenue share expense as well as an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent and occupancy costs attributable to

the admissions advisory personnel.

Advertising

Advertising expenses include brand advertising, marketing leads and other branding activities. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred.

Marketing and Promotional

Marketing and promotional expenses include salaries, benefits and share-based compensation for marketing personnel, and other promotional expenses. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to marketing and promotional activities. Marketing and promotional costs are expensed as incurred.

General and Administrative

General and administrative expenses include salaries, benefits and share-based compensation of employees engaged in corporate management, finance, human resources, compliance, and other corporate functions. General and administrative expenses also include an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to the departments providing general and administrative functions.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

Commitments and Contingencies

The University accrues for contingent obligations when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount is reasonably estimable. When the University becomes aware of a claim or potential claim, the likelihood of any loss exposure is assessed. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss is estimable, the University records a liability for the estimated loss. If the loss is not probable or the amount of the potential loss is not estimable, the University will disclose the claim if the likelihood of a potential loss is reasonably possible and the amount of the potential loss could be material. Estimates that are particularly sensitive to future changes include tax, legal, and other regulatory matters, which are subject to change as events evolve, and as additional information becomes available during the administrative and litigation process. The University expenses legal fees as incurred.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Segment Information

The University operates as a single educational delivery operation using a core infrastructure that serves the curriculum and educational delivery needs of both its ground and online students regardless of geography. The University's Chief Executive Officer manages the University's operations as a whole and no expense or operating income information is generated or evaluated on any component level.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The University has determined no recent accounting pronouncements apply to its operations or would otherwise have a material impact on its financial statements.

3. Investments

The University had no investments as of December 31, 2012. The following is a summary of amounts included in investments as of September 30, 2013. The University considered all investments as available for sale.

As of September 30, 2013

| | Adjusted Cost | Gross Unrealized Gains | Gross Unrealized (Losses) | Estimated Fair Value |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Municipal securities | \$ 63,477 | \$ 20 | \$ (5) | \$ 63,492 |

The cash flows of municipal securities are backed by the issuing municipality's credit worthiness. All municipal securities are due in one year or less as of September 30, 2013. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the net unrealized gain on available-for-sale securities was \$15.

4. Net Income Per Common Share

Basic net income per common share is calculated by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per common share reflects the assumed conversion of all potentially dilutive securities, consisting of stock options and restricted stock awards, for which the estimated fair value exceeds the exercise price, less shares which could have been purchased with the related proceeds, unless anti-dilutive. For employee equity awards, repurchased shares are also included for any unearned compensation adjusted for tax.

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements****(In thousands, except per share data)****(Unaudited)**

The table below reflects the calculation of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, on an as if converted basis, used in computing basic and diluted earnings per common share.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Basic weighted average shares outstanding | 44,963 | 44,365 | 44,631 | 44,395 |
| Effect of dilutive stock options and restricted stock | 1,461 | 974 | 1,305 | 825 |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 46,424 | 45,339 | 45,936 | 45,220 |

Diluted weighted average shares outstanding exclude the incremental effect of shares that would be issued upon the assumed exercise of stock options. For the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, approximately 179 and 2,009, respectively, of the University's stock options outstanding were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive. These options could be dilutive in the future.

5. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

| | Balance at | Charged to | Deductions⁽¹⁾ | Balance at |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Beginning of | Expense | | End of |
| | Period | | | Period |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2013 | \$ 8,657 | 14,881 | (14,073) | \$ 9,465 |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2012 | \$ 11,706 | 13,492 | (15,896) | \$ 9,302 |

(1) Deductions represent accounts written off, net of recoveries.

6. Property and Equipment, net

Property and equipment, net consist of the following:

| | September 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Land | \$ 18,591 | \$ 13,294 |
| Land improvements | 5,176 | 3,439 |
| Buildings | 213,703 | 180,945 |
| Equipment under capital leases | 5,310 | 5,310 |
| Leasehold improvements | 29,306 | 24,930 |
| Computer equipment | 62,527 | 55,734 |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 31,035 | 22,124 |
| Internally developed software | 14,422 | 11,039 |
| Other | 1,099 | 1,099 |
| Construction in progress | 26,196 | 12,487 |
| | 407,365 | 330,401 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | (78,942) | (61,239) |
| Property and equipment, net | \$ 328,423 | \$ 269,162 |

7. Commitments and Contingencies

Leases

The University leases certain land, buildings and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases expiring at various dates through 2021. Future minimum lease payments under operating leases due each year are as follows at September 30, 2013:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 2013 (remaining three months) | \$ 1,855 |
| 2014 | 6,855 |
| 2015 | 6,474 |
| 2016 | 5,790 |
| 2017 | 4,693 |
| Thereafter | 11,095 |
| Total minimum payments | \$ 36,762 |

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

Total rent expense and related taxes and operating expenses under operating leases for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 were \$5,220 and \$5,759, respectively.

Legal Matters

From time to time, the University is a party to various lawsuits, claims, and other legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of business, some of which are covered by insurance. When the University is aware of a claim or potential claim, it assesses the likelihood of any loss or exposure. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, the University records a liability for the loss. If the loss is not probable or the amount of the loss cannot be reasonably estimated, the University discloses the nature of the specific claim if the likelihood of a potential loss is reasonably possible and the amount involved could be material. With respect to the majority of pending litigation matters, the University's ultimate legal and financial responsibility, if any, cannot be estimated with certainty and, in most cases, any potential losses related to those matters are not considered probable.

Upon resolution of any pending legal matters, the University may incur charges in excess of presently established reserves. Management does not believe that any such charges would, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the University's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Tax Reserves, Non-Income Tax Related

From time to time the University has exposure to various non-income tax related matters that arise in the ordinary course of business. At September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the University reserved approximately \$729 and \$703, respectively, for tax matters where its ultimate exposure is considered probable and the potential loss can be reasonably estimated.

8. Share-Based Compensation

Incentive Plan

Restricted Stock

During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the University granted 575 shares of common stock with a service vesting condition to certain of its executives, officers, faculty and employees. The restricted shares have voting rights and vest in five annual installments of 20% starting on March 1, 2014 and each of the four anniversaries of the vesting date following the date of grant. In May 2013, the University granted 10 shares of common stock to certain of the non-employee members of the University's board of directors. The restricted shares granted to these directors have voting rights and vest on the earlier of (a) the one year anniversary of the date of grant or (b) immediately prior to the following year's annual meeting of stockholders, subject to acceleration in the event of a change in control. Upon

Edgar Filing: Grand Canyon Education, Inc. - Form 10-Q

vesting, shares will be held in lieu of taxes equivalent to the minimum statutory tax withholding required to be paid when the restricted stock vests. During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the University withheld 40 shares of common stock in lieu of taxes at a cost of \$973 on the restricted stock vesting dates.

A summary of the activity related to restricted stock granted under the University's Incentive Plan since December 31, 2012 is as follows:

| | Total Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value per Share |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2012 | 553 | \$ 17.04 |
| Granted | 585 | \$ 24.16 |
| Vested | (119) | \$ 17.13 |
| Forfeited, canceled or expired | (17) | \$ 19.88 |
| Outstanding as of September 30, 2013 | 1,002 | \$ 21.14 |

Table of Contents**GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements****(In thousands, except per share data)****(Unaudited)***Stock Options*

During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, the University granted time vested options to purchase shares of common stock with an exercise price equal to the fair market value on the date of grant to an employee. The time vested options vest ratably over a period of four years and expire ten years from the date of grant. No options were granted in 2012. A summary of the activity related to stock options granted under the University's Incentive Plan since December 31, 2012 is as follows:

| | Summary of Stock Options Outstanding | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | Total Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value \$(1) |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2012 | 4,229 | \$ 14.57 | | |
| Granted | 25 | \$ 24.97 | | |
| Exercised | (1,070) | \$ 13.85 | | |
| Forfeited, canceled or expired | (33) | \$ 16.37 | | |
| Outstanding as of September 30, 2013 | 3,151 | \$ 14.88 | 6.10 | \$ 79,918 |
| Exercisable as of September 30, 2013 | 1,673 | \$ 14.17 | 5.73 | \$ 43,616 |
| Available for issuance as of September 30, 2013 | 2,251 | | | |

(1) Aggregate intrinsic value represents the value of the University's closing stock price on September 30, 2013 (\$40.24) in excess of the exercise price multiplied by the number of shares underlying options outstanding or exercisable, as applicable.

Share-based Compensation Expense

The table below outlines share-based compensation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 related to restricted stock and stock options granted:

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Instructional costs and services | \$ 3,988 | \$ 2,807 |
| Admissions advisory and related expenses | 100 | 121 |
| Marketing and promotional | 170 | 160 |
| General and administrative | 3,410 | 2,660 |
| Share-based compensation expense included in operating expenses | 7,668 | 5,748 |
| Tax effect of share-based compensation | (3,067) | (2,299) |
| Share-based compensation expense, net of tax | \$ 4,601 | \$ 3,449 |

9. Regulatory

The University is subject to extensive regulation by federal and state governmental agencies and accrediting bodies. In particular, the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the Higher Education Act), and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Education, subject the University to significant regulatory scrutiny on the basis of numerous standards that schools must satisfy in order to participate in the various federal student financial assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

To participate in the Title IV programs, an institution must be authorized to offer its programs of instruction by the relevant agency of the state in which it is located, accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department of Education and certified as eligible by the Department of Education. The Department of Education will certify an institution to participate in the Title IV programs only after the institution has demonstrated compliance with the Higher Education Act and the Department of Education's extensive regulations regarding institutional eligibility. An institution must also demonstrate its compliance to the Department of Education on an ongoing basis. As of September 30, 2013, management believes the University is in compliance with the applicable regulations in all material respects.

Because the University operates in a highly regulated industry, it, like other industry participants, may be subject from time to time to investigations, claims of non-compliance, or lawsuits by governmental agencies or third parties, which allege statutory violations, regulatory infractions, or common law causes of action. While there can be no assurance that regulatory agencies or third parties will not undertake investigations or make claims against the University, or that such claims, if made, will not have a material adverse effect on the University's business, results of operations or financial condition, management believes the University is in compliance with applicable regulations in all material respects.

In connection with its administration of the Title IV federal student financial aid programs, the Department of Education periodically conducts program reviews at selected schools that receive Title IV funds. In July 2010, the Department of Education initiated a program review of the University covering the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 award years. As part of this program review, a Department of Education program review team conducted a site visit on the University's campus in July 2010 and reviewed, and in some cases requested further information regarding, the University's records, practices and policies relating to, among other things, financial aid, enrollment, enrollment counselor compensation, program eligibility and other Title IV compliance matters.

While the University never received a formal exit interview, which it had understood to be the typical step prior to the Department of Education's issuance of a preliminary program review report, on August 24, 2011, the University received from the Department of Education a written preliminary program review report that included five findings, two of which involved individual student-specific errors concerning the monitoring of satisfactory academic progress for two students and the certification of one student's Federal Family Educational Loan as an unsubsidized Stafford loan rather than a subsidized Stafford loan. The other three findings were as follows:

Incentive compensation issue. During a portion of the period under review, the University had in place a compensation plan for its enrollment counselors that was designed to comply with the regulatory safe harbor in effect during such period that allowed companies to make adjustments to fixed compensation for enrollment personnel, provided that any such adjustment (i) was not made more than twice during

any twelve month period, and (ii) was not based solely on the number of students recruited, admitted, enrolled, or awarded financial aid. The plan at issue provided for enrollment counselor performance to be reviewed on a number of non-enrollment related factors that could account for a substantial portion of any potential base compensation adjustment. The preliminary program review report did not appear to set forth any definitive finding regarding the plan, but the Department of Education requested additional information from the University regarding its enrollment counselor compensation practices and policies in effect during the period under review. The University believes that the plan at issue, both as designed and as applied, did not base compensation solely on success in enrolling students in violation of applicable law.

Gainful employment issue. The preliminary program review report set forth the Department of Education's position that the University's Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program was not an eligible program under Title IV because it did not provide students with training to prepare them for gainful employment in a recognized occupation. This gainful employment standard has been a requirement for Title IV eligibility for programs offered at proprietary institutions of higher education such as the University although, pursuant to legislation passed in 2008 and effective as of July 1, 2010, this requirement no longer applies to designated liberal arts programs offered by the University and certain other institutions that have held accreditation by a regional accrediting agency since a date on or before October 1, 2007 (we have held a regional accreditation since 1968). The University believes that its Interdisciplinary Studies program, which it first offered in Fall 2007 in response to a request by one of its employer-partners, was an eligible program under the gainful employment standard in effect prior to July 1, 2010.

Inadequate procedures related to non-passing grades. The preliminary program review report set forth the Department of Education's position that, during the period under review, and prior to the time the University converted from a term-based financial aid system to a non-term, borrower-based financial aid system in mid-2010, the University failed to have an accurate system to determine if students with non-passing grades for a term had no documented attendance for the term or should have been treated as unofficial withdrawals for the term, thereby potentially requiring the University to return all or a portion of the Title IV monies previously received with respect to such students. As part of the process of reviewing and responding to this finding, the Department of Education requested that the University conduct a further review of student files and provide additional information to the Department of Education following the completion of such review. The University completed, and submitted, the extensive file review requested by the Department of Education. The University remains confident in the legal sufficiency of its policies that were in place during the period under review.

Table of Contents

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

On September 27, 2013, the University and the Department of Education entered into an agreement that fully resolves the findings in the preliminary program review report and closes the program review. As a result of this agreement, in addition to amounts previously reserved and disclosed by the University relating to this matter, the University recorded an additional reserve of \$1,387 during the three months ended September 30, 2013. The majority of the total amount required to be returned, or paid, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, relate to the inadequate procedures related to non-passing grade finding. Specifically, in the course of its file review, the University determined that certain Pell grants received by the University for students that later unofficially withdrew should have been returned under applicable return to Title IV rules, as those rules are currently being interpreted by the Department of Education. In addition, the University was not able to demonstrate in all cases that its faculty followed its established grading policy as it relates to students that stopped attending prior to the end of the semester but did not formally withdraw. Although when the University makes a return to Title IV the applicable student is obligated to repay the University for the amounts returned, the University has agreed that it will not seek reimbursement from these students once the returns are made. Included in accrued liabilities at September 30, 2013 is \$2,528 in return to Title IV payments that the University anticipates will be paid over the next six months.

Since July 2008, we had been provisionally certified to participate in the Title IV programs on a month-to-month basis. On April 8, 2011, following the completion of the Department of Education's review of information we had provided in connection with a deemed change in control that resulted from the termination in January 2011 of voting agreements that were in effect among certain of our stockholders, the Department of Education notified us that it had approved our application for a change in control and issued to us a new, provisional program participation agreement to participate in the Title IV programs. While this certification was provisional, the Department of Education's action removed us from month-to-month status, provided for our continued participation in Title IV programs through December 31, 2013, and did not impose any conditions (such as any letter of credit requirement) or other restrictions on us during the provisional period other than the standard restrictions applicable to a provisional certification. In accordance with the terms of the provisional certification, we were allowed to apply for recertification on a full basis by submitting a complete application by no later than September 30, 2013. In July 2013 we submitted our complete application for full certification and, on October 28, 2013, the University received a new program participation agreement with full certification from the Department of Education, which gives the University the ability to participate in the Title IV programs through September 30, 2017.

10. Treasury Stock

On April 25, 2013, the Board of Directors authorized the University to repurchase up to an additional \$25,000 (\$75,000 total) of common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The Board of Directors also extended the expiration date on the repurchase authorization to September 30, 2014. Repurchases occur at the University's discretion. Repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant. Since its approval of the

share repurchase plan, the University has purchased 2,743 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$47,173, which includes 333 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$8,036 during the nine months ended September 30, 2013, which are recorded at cost in the accompanying September 30, 2013 consolidated balance sheet and statement of stockholders' equity. At September 30, 2013, there remained \$27,827 available under its share repurchase authorization. Shares repurchased in lieu of taxes are not included in the repurchase plan totals as they were approved in conjunction with the restricted share awards.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and related notes that appear elsewhere in this report.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including Item 2, *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, contains certain forward-looking statements, which include information relating to future events, future financial performance, strategies, expectations, competitive environment, regulation, and availability of resources. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding: proposed new programs; statements as to whether regulatory developments or other matters may or may not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity; statements concerning projections, predictions, expectations, estimates, or forecasts as to our business, financial and operational results, and future economic performance; and statements of management's goals and objectives and other similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Words such as may, should, could, would, predicts, potential, continue, anticipates, future, intends, plans, believes, estimates and similar expressions, as well as statements in future identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements should not be read as a guarantee of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indications of the times at, or by, which such performance or results will be achieved. Forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time those statements are made or management's good faith belief as of that time with respect to future events, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

our failure to comply with the extensive regulatory framework applicable to our industry, including Title IV of the Higher Education Act and the regulations thereunder, state laws and regulatory requirements, and accrediting commission requirements;

the ability of our students to obtain federal Title IV funds, state financial aid, and private financing;

potential damage to our reputation or other adverse effects as a result of negative publicity in the media, in the industry or in connection with governmental reports or investigations or otherwise, affecting us or other companies in the for-profit postsecondary education sector;

risks associated with changes in applicable federal and state laws and regulations and accrediting commission standards including pending rulemaking by the Department of Education;

our ability to properly manage risks and challenges associated with potential acquisitions of, or investments in, new businesses, acquisitions of new properties, or the expansion of our campus to new locations;

our ability to hire and train new, and develop and train existing employees and faculty;

the pace of growth of our enrollment;

our ability to convert prospective students to enrolled students and to retain active students;

our success in updating and expanding the content of existing programs and developing new programs in a cost-effective manner or on a timely basis;

industry competition, including competition for students and for qualified executives and other personnel;

risks associated with the competitive environment for marketing our programs;

failure on our part to keep up with advances in technology that could enhance the online experience for our students;

the extent to which obligations under our loan agreement, including the need to comply with restrictive and financial covenants and to pay principal and interest payments, limits our ability to conduct our operations or seek new business opportunities;

our ability to manage future growth effectively; and

general adverse economic conditions or other developments that affect the job prospects of our students.

Table of Contents

Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those described in this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and in Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, as updated in our subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including any updates found in Part II, Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or our other reports on Form 10-Q. You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statements are made and we assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions, or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information, except to the extent required by applicable securities laws. If we do update one or more forward-looking statements, no inference should be drawn that we will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents**Overview**

We are a regionally accredited provider of postsecondary education services focused on offering graduate and undergraduate degree programs in our core disciplines of education, healthcare, business, and liberal arts. We offer programs online, on ground at our approximately 115 acre traditional campus in Phoenix, Arizona and onsite at facilities we lease and at facilities owned by third party employers.

At September 30, 2013, we had approximately 59,900 students, an increase of 14.7% over the approximately 52,300 students we had at September 30, 2012. At September 30, 2013, 82.8% of our students were enrolled in our online programs, and of our online and professional studies students, 43.2% were pursuing master's or doctoral degrees. In addition, revenue per student for the nine month period increased between periods as a result of improved retention. We did not raise tuition in any of our programs for our 2013-2014 academic year and have not raised our tuition for our traditional ground programs in four years. This reflects a concerted effort to control tuition pricing for students so that debt levels assumed by our students are reasonable. Tuition increases have not historically been, and may not in the future be, consistent across our programs due to market conditions and differences in operating costs of individual programs.

The following is a summary of our student enrollment at September 30, 2013 and 2012 by degree type and by instructional delivery method:

| | 2013 ⁽¹⁾ | | 2012 ⁽¹⁾ | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | # of Students | % of Total | # of Students | % of Total |
| Graduate degrees ⁽²⁾ | 22,394 | 37.4% | 19,439 | 37.2% |
| Undergraduate degree | 37,520 | 62.6% | 32,814 | 62.8% |
| Total | 59,914 | 100.0% | 52,253 | 100.0% |

| | 2013 ⁽¹⁾ | | 2012 ⁽¹⁾ | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | # of Students | % of Total | # of Students | % of Total |
| Online ⁽³⁾ | 49,584 | 82.8% | 44,849 | 85.8% |
| Ground ⁽⁴⁾ | 10,330 | 17.2% | 7,404 | 14.2% |
| Total | 59,914 | 100.0% | 52,253 | 100.0% |

(1) Enrollment at September 30, 2013 and 2012 represents individual students who attended a course during the last two months of the calendar quarter. Included in enrollment at September 30, 2013 and 2012 are students pursuing non-degree certificates of 552 and 542, respectively. The September 30, 2012 amount also included 223 high school dual credit students. We are no longer including these students in our enrollment.

(2) Includes 3,971 and 2,745 students pursuing doctoral degrees at September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

(3) As of September 30, 2013 and 2012, 43.2% and 42.0%, respectively, of our online and professional studies students were pursuing graduate degrees.

(4) Includes both our traditional on-campus ground students, as well as our professional studies students.

Critical Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

Our critical accounting policies are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012. During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, there have been no significant changes in our critical accounting policies.

Financial Statement Presentation

Effective during the first quarter of 2013, the University made changes in its presentation of operating expenses and reclassified prior periods to conform to the current presentation. The University determined that these changes would provide more meaningful information and are consistent with changes recently made by a number of other regionally accredited for-profit universities. Additionally, this new presentation better classifies its costs consistently with the operational changes the University has made related to the roles and responsibilities of its admissions personnel. Specifically we have separated admissions advisory and related expenses from advertising, and marketing and promotional expenses as the admissions personnel role has evolved into one in which a substantial amount of their time is spent educating students not only during the admissions process but also through matriculation and during their program of study.

Table of Contents

Instructional Costs and Services

Instructional costs and services consist primarily of costs related to the administration and delivery of the University's educational programs. This expense category includes salaries, benefits and share-based compensation for full-time and adjunct faculty and administrative personnel, information technology costs, bad debt expense, curriculum and new program development costs (which are expensed as incurred) and costs associated with other support groups that provide services directly to the students. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of educational services, primarily at the University's Phoenix, Arizona campus.

Admissions Advisory and Related

Admissions advisory and related expenses include salaries and benefits for admissions advisory personnel and, revenue share expense as well as an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent and occupancy costs attributable to the admissions advisory personnel.

Advertising

Advertising expenses include brand advertising, marketing leads and other branding activities. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred.

Marketing and Promotional

Marketing and promotional expenses include salaries, benefits and share-based compensation for marketing personnel, and other promotional expenses. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to marketing and promotional activities. Marketing and promotional costs are expensed as incurred.

General and Administrative

General and administrative expenses include salaries, benefits and share-based compensation of employees engaged in corporate management, finance, human resources, compliance, and other corporate functions. General and administrative expenses also include an allocation of depreciation, amortization, rent, and occupancy costs attributable to the departments providing general and administrative functions.

We have reclassified our operating expenses for prior periods to conform to the above disaggregation and revisions to our presentation. There were no changes to total operating expenses or operating income as a result of these reclassifications.

Key Trends, Developments and Challenges

The key trends, developments and challenges facing the University are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2013. During the three months ended September 30, 2013, there have been no significant changes in these trends. See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Key Trends, Developments and Challenges in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and Part I, Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Key Trends, Developments and Challenges in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31,

2013, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth income statement data as a percentage of net revenue for each of the periods indicated:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 30, 2013 | September 30, 2012 | September 30, 2013 | September 30, 2012 |
| Net revenue | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Operating expenses | | | | |
| Instructional costs and services | 42.5 | 42.9 | 42.8 | 43.7 |
| Admissions advisory and related | 16.1 | 16.7 | 16.3 | 16.9 |
| Advertising | 10.2 | 9.7 | 10.5 | 10.3 |
| Marketing and promotional | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| General and administrative | 5.9 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.4 |
| Total operating expenses | 75.5 | 76.6 | 76.5 | 78.2 |
| Operating income | 24.5 | 23.4 | 23.5 | 21.8 |
| Interest expense | (0.3) | (0.1) | (0.4) | (0.1) |
| Interest income and other income | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Income before income taxes | 25.1 | 23.3 | 24.0 | 21.7 |
| Income tax expense | 10.3 | 9.4 | 9.6 | 8.6 |
| Net income | 14.8 | 13.8 | 14.4 | 13.1 |

Three Months Ended September 30, 2013 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2012

Net revenue. Our net revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2013 was \$152.4 million, an increase of \$18.8 million, or 14.1%, as compared to net revenue of \$133.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to an increase in ground and online enrollment and, to a lesser extent, an increase in room and board and other student fees, partially offset by an increase in institutional scholarships. End-of-period enrollment increased 14.7% between September 30, 2013 and September 30, 2012, as ground enrollment increased 39.5%, and online enrollment increased 10.6% over the prior year. The majority of the ground enrollment growth between years occurred at our ground traditional campus in Phoenix, Arizona in late August 2013. Thus, we only recognized approximately five weeks of revenue in the third quarter of 2013, with respect to these ground traditional students. We attribute the significant growth in our ground enrollment between years to our increasing brand recognition and the value proposition that our ground traditional campus affords to traditional-aged students and their parents. After scholarships, our ground traditional students pay an amount for tuition, room, board, and fees often half to a third of what it costs to attend a private, traditional university in another state and an amount comparable to what it costs to attend the public universities in the state of Arizona as an in-state student. We are anticipating increased pressure on new and continuing online enrollments due primarily to increased competition for students from traditional colleges and universities as such institutions, including those with well-established reputations for excellence, increasingly seek to provide alternative learning modalities.

Instructional costs and services expenses. Our instructional costs and services expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$64.7 million, an increase of \$7.3 million, or 12.8%, as compared to instructional costs and services expenses of \$57.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share based compensation, faculty compensation, depreciation and amortization and occupancy expense, and other instructional compensation and related expenses, of \$2.3 million, \$1.9 million, \$1.5 million, and \$1.6 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses and faculty compensation are primarily due to the increase in the number of staff to support the increasing number of students attending the University. In addition, we continue to increase our online full-time faculty and have incurred an increase in benefit costs between years. The increase in depreciation and amortization and occupancy costs is the result of us placing into service two additional dormitories, an Arts and Sciences classroom building, and a parking garage for our ground traditional campus in the Fall of 2012 and two additional dormitories and a new administrative building in the Fall of 2013. Our instructional costs and services expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased by 0.4% to 42.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2013, as compared to 42.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to bad debt expense decreasing to 3.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2013 as compared to 4.2% in the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Admissions advisory and related expenses. Our admissions advisory and related expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$24.6 million, an increase of \$2.3 million, or 10.0%, as compared to admissions advisory and related expenses of \$22.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increases in employee compensation and revenue share expense of \$1.7 million and \$0.3 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to increased headcount and an increase in benefit costs between years. Our admissions advisory and related expenses as a percentage of revenue decreased 0.6% to 16.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2013, from 16.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to our ability to leverage our admissions advisory personnel across an increasing revenue base.

Table of Contents

Advertising expenses. Our advertising expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$15.5 million, an increase of \$2.6 million, or 20.1%, as compared to advertising expenses of \$12.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increased branding advertising focused on the southwestern United States region. Our advertising expenses as a percentage of net revenue increased by 0.5% to 10.2% for the three months ended September 30, 2013, from 9.7% for the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Marketing and promotional expenses. Our marketing and promotional expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$1.3 million, an increase of \$0.1 million, or 8.4%, as compared to marketing and promotional expenses of \$1.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increases in employee compensation and related expenses of \$0.1 million. Our marketing and promotional expenses as a percentage of net revenue remained flat at 0.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012.

General and administrative expenses. Our general and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$9.0 million, an increase of \$0.4 million, or 5.5%, as compared to general and administrative expenses of \$8.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share based compensation of \$0.6 million due primarily to increased headcount to support our increasing number of students and an increase in benefit costs. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenue decreased by 0.5% to 5.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2013, from 6.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Our costs as a percentage of revenue declined due to our ability to leverage the fixed costs structure of our general and administrative expenses across an increasing revenue base.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$0.5 million, an increase of \$0.3 million, as compared to interest expense of \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to the expansion of our credit facility in December 2012. Our interest expense increased as a percentage of net revenue by 0.2% to 0.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2013, from 0.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2012.

Interest and other income. Interest and other income for the three months ended September 30, 2013 were \$1.5 million, an increase of \$1.5 million, as compared to interest income of nil in the three months ended September 30, 2012. The increase was primarily due to late penalty and default interest earned on a settlement of a note receivable purchased in 2012.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2013 was \$15.7 million, an increase of \$3.1 million, or 24.8%, as compared to income tax expense of \$12.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012. Our effective tax rate was 41.1% during the third quarter of 2013 compared to 40.5% during the third quarter of 2012. Our effective tax rate in the third quarter of 2013 was higher than anticipated due primarily to certain non-recurring tax items.

Net income. Our net income for the three months ended September 30, 2013 was \$22.5 million, an increase of \$4.0 million, as compared to \$18.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012, due to the factors discussed above.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012

Net revenue. Our net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was \$435.9 million, an increase of \$65.9 million, or 17.8%, as compared to net revenue of \$370.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This

increase was primarily due to an increase in ground and online enrollment and, to a lesser extent, increases in the average tuition per student as a result of improved retention, selective tuition price increases during 2012 and an increase in room and board and other student fees, partially offset by an increase in institutional scholarships. End-of-period enrollment increased 14.7% between September 30, 2013 and September 30, 2012, as ground enrollment increased 39.5%, and online enrollment increased 10.6% over the prior year. We attribute the significant growth in our ground enrollment between years to our increasing brand recognition and the value proposition that our ground traditional campus affords to traditional-aged students and their parents. After scholarships, our ground traditional students pay an amount for tuition, room, board, and fees often half to a third of what it costs to attend a private, traditional university in another state and an amount comparable to what it costs to attend the public universities in the state of Arizona as an in-state student. We are anticipating increased pressure on new and continuing online enrollments due primarily to increased competition for students from traditional colleges and universities as such institutions, including those with well-established reputations for excellence, increasingly seek to provide alternative learning modalities.

Table of Contents

Instructional costs and services expenses. Our instructional costs and services expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$186.4 million, an increase of \$24.8 million, or 15.4%, as compared to instructional costs and services expenses of \$161.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share based compensation, faculty compensation, depreciation and amortization and occupancy expense, instructional supplies, bad debt expense and other instructional compensation and related expenses, of \$8.5 million, \$5.9 million, \$3.9 million, \$2.6 million, \$1.4 million and \$2.5 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses and faculty compensation are primarily due to the increase in the number of staff to support the increasing number of students attending the University. In addition, we continue to grow our online full-time faculty and we have incurred an increase in medical and other benefit costs between years. The increase in depreciation and amortization and occupancy expense is the result of us placing into service two additional dormitories, an Arts and Sciences classroom building, and a parking garage for our ground traditional campus in the Fall of 2012 and two additional dormitories and a new administrative building in the Fall of 2013. The increase in instructional supplies is primarily due to increased licensing fees related to educational resources, increased food costs due to increased food revenues and miscellaneous costs associated with curriculum and the continued development of new and enhanced innovative educational tools and new educational programs. Our instructional costs and services expenses as a percentage of net revenues decreased by 0.9% to 42.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, as compared to 43.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to our ability to leverage our employees and the fixed costs structure of our campus-based facilities and faculty across an increasing revenue base. Bad debt expense decreased over prior year at 3.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 as compared to 3.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Admissions advisory and related expenses. Our admissions advisory and related expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$70.9 million, an increase of \$8.2 million, or 13.1%, as compared to admissions advisory and related expenses of \$62.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increases in employee compensation and revenue share expense of \$6.2 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to increased headcount and an increase in medical and other benefit costs between years. Our admissions advisory and related expenses as a percentage of revenue decreased 0.6% to 16.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, from 16.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to our ability to leverage our admissions and advisory personnel across an increasing revenue base.

Advertising expenses. Our advertising expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$45.9 million, an increase of \$7.9 million, or 20.9%, as compared to advertising expenses of \$38.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increased branding advertising focused on the southwestern United States region. Our advertising expenses as a percentage of net revenue increased by 0.2% to 10.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, from 10.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Marketing and promotional expenses. Our marketing and promotional expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$4.1 million, an increase of \$1.1 million, or 35.1%, as compared to marketing and promotional expenses of \$3.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase is primarily the result of increases in employee compensation and other promotional activities of \$0.8 million and \$0.3 million, respectively. Our marketing and promotional expenses as a percentage of net revenue increased by 0.1% to 0.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, from 0.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

General and administrative expenses. Our general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$26.1 million, an increase of \$2.3 million, or 9.5%, as compared to general and administrative expenses of \$23.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily

due to increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share based compensation of \$2.1 million due primarily to increased headcount to support our increasing number of students and increased medical and other benefit costs. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenue decreased by 0.4% to 6.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, from 6.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Our costs as a percentage of revenue declined due to our ability to leverage the fixed costs structure of our general and administrative expenses across an increasing revenue base.

Interest expense. Interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was \$1.6 million, an increase of \$1.2 million, as compared to interest expense of \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to the expansion of our credit facility in December 2012. Our interest expense increased as a percentage of net revenue by 0.3% to 0.4% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013, from 0.1% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Interest and other income. Interest and other income for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 were \$3.8 million, an increase of \$3.7 million, as compared to interest income of \$0.1 in the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The increase was primarily due to the proceeds received from settlement of a note receivable in 2013, which resulted in a \$3.6 million gain for the nine months ended September 30, 2013.

Table of Contents

Income tax expense. Income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was \$42.0 million, an increase of \$10.1 million, or 31.6%, as compared to income tax expense of \$31.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. Our effective tax rate was 40.2% during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 compared to 39.6% during the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The effective tax rates in both periods were lower than expected due to certain non-recurring tax items.

Net income. Our net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was \$62.6 million, an increase of \$14.1 million, as compared to \$48.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, due to the factors discussed above.

Seasonality

Our net revenue and operating results normally fluctuate as a result of seasonal variations in our business, principally due to changes in enrollment. Student population varies as a result of new enrollments, graduations, and student attrition. The majority of our traditional ground students do not attend courses during the summer months (May through August), which affects our results for our second and third fiscal quarters. Since a significant amount of our campus costs are fixed, the lower revenue resulting from the decreased ground student enrollment has historically contributed to lower operating margins during those periods. As we increased the relative proportion of our online students during the past few years, this summer effect lessened. However, it is our intent to continue to increase the number of ground traditional students during the next few years. Thus, we expect this summer effect to become more pronounced in future years. Partially offsetting this summer effect in the third quarter has been the sequential quarterly increase in enrollments that has occurred as a result of the traditional fall school start. This increase in enrollments also has occurred in the first quarter, corresponding to calendar year matriculation. In addition, we typically experience higher net revenue in the fourth quarter due to its overlap with the semester encompassing the traditional fall school start and in the first quarter due to its overlap with the first semester of the calendar year. A portion of our expenses do not vary proportionately with these fluctuations in net revenue, resulting in higher operating income in the first and fourth quarters relative to other quarters. We expect quarterly fluctuation in operating results to continue as a result of these seasonal patterns.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity. We financed our operating activities and capital expenditures during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 primarily through cash provided by operating activities. Our unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and investments were \$170.3 million and \$105.1 million at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. Our restricted cash and cash equivalents at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 were \$49.8 million and \$56.2 million, respectively.

Based on our current level of operations and anticipated growth, we believe that our cash flow from operations and other sources of liquidity, including cash and cash equivalents and our revolving line of credit, will provide adequate funds for ongoing operations, planned capital expenditures, and working capital requirements for at least the next 24 months. No amounts are borrowed on the \$50.0 million revolving line of credit as of September 30, 2013.

Share Repurchase Program

On April 25, 2013, our Board of Directors authorized the University to repurchase up to an additional \$25 million (\$75 million total) of common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The Board of Directors also extended the expiration date on the repurchase authorization to September 30, 2014. Repurchases occur at the University's discretion.

Under our share purchase authorization, we may purchase shares in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission Rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant.

Between the approval of the initial share repurchase plan, which was authorized in August 2010, and September 30, 2013, the University has purchased 2,742,877 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$47.2 million which includes 333,087 shares of common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2013 at an aggregate cost of \$8.0 million. At September 30, 2013, there remains \$27.8 million available under our share repurchase authorization.

Cash Flows

Operating Activities. Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 was \$101.8 million as compared to \$124.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. The decrease in cash generated from operating activities between the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is primarily due to the timing of income tax and employee related payments and student deposits.

Table of Contents

Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities was \$104.5 million and \$74.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Our cash used in investing activities during 2013 was primarily related to the purchase of short-term investments and property and equipment, partially offset by proceeds received from the settlement of a note receivable. Purchases of short-term investments net of proceeds of these investments was \$63.5 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2013. Capital expenditures were \$59.2 million and \$73.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. In 2013, capital expenditures primarily consisted of ground campus building projects such as the construction costs for two additional dormitories and an expansion of our food services and library to support our traditional student enrollment as well as purchases of computer equipment, other internal use software projects and furniture and equipment to support our increasing employee headcount. In 2012, capital expenditures primarily consisted of the construction costs associated with two additional dormitories, an Arts and Science classroom building, a remodel of our student union and a parking garage to support our increasing traditional student enrollment as well as purchases of computer equipment, other internal use software projects and furniture and equipment to support our increasing employee headcount. In addition, during the first nine months of 2013 we spent \$11.2 million to purchase and refurbish a building that is located less than two miles from our Phoenix, Arizona campus. The University had entered into a preliminary agreement to sell this property upon its completion but that agreement was not finalized.

Financing Activities. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$4.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and net cash used in financing activities was \$2.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. During the first nine months of 2013 proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$14.8 million and excess tax benefits from share-based compensation of \$3.7 million were partially offset by \$9.0 million used to purchase treasury stock in accordance with the University's share repurchase program and principal payments on notes payable and capital leases totaled \$5.0 million. During the first nine months of 2012 proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$4.3 million were partially offset by \$4.9 million used to purchase treasury stock in accordance with the University's share repurchase program and principal payments on notes payable and capital lease obligations totaled \$1.8 million.

Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth, as of September 30, 2013, the aggregate amounts of our significant contractual obligations and commitments with definitive payment terms due in each of the periods presented (in millions):

| | Total | Payments Due by Period | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | Less than 1 Year (1) | 2-3 Years | 4-5 Years | More than 5 Years |
| Long term notes payable | \$ 94.7 | \$ 1.6 | \$ 13.2 | \$ 13.3 | \$ 66.6 |
| Capital lease obligations | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Purchase obligations(2) | 21.5 | 12.8 | 7.0 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| Operating lease obligations | 36.8 | 1.9 | 13.3 | 10.5 | 11.1 |
| Total contractual obligations | \$ 153.6 | \$ 16.3 | \$ 33.7 | \$ 25.8 | \$ 77.8 |

(1) Less than one year represents expected expenditures from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

(2)

The purchase obligation amounts include expected spending by period under contracts that were in effect at September 30, 2013.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have had or are reasonably likely to have a material current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Impact of inflation. We believe that inflation has not had a material impact on our results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2013 or 2012. There can be no assurance that future inflation will not have an adverse impact on our operating results and financial condition.

Market risk. On June 30, 2009 and February 27, 2013, respectively, we entered into an interest rate swap and an interest rate corridor to manage our 30 Day LIBOR interest exposure from the variable rate debt, which debt matures in December 2019. The corridor instrument, which hedges variable interest rate risk starting March 1, 2013 through December 20, 2019 with a notional amount of \$85.9 million as of September 30, 2013, permits us to hedge our interest rate risk at several thresholds. Under this arrangement, in addition to the credit spread we will pay variable interest rates based on the 30 Day LIBOR rates monthly until that index reaches 1.5%. If 30 Day LIBOR is equal to 1.5% through 3.0%, we will continue to pay 1.5%. If 30 Day LIBOR exceeds 3.0%, we will pay actual 30 Day LIBOR less 1.5%. The interest rate swap commenced on May 1, 2010, continues each month thereafter until April 30, 2014, and has a notional amount of \$9.1 million as of September 30, 2013. Under this arrangement, we will receive 30 Day LIBOR and pay 3.245% fixed rate on the amortizing notional amount plus the credit spread.

Table of Contents

Except with respect to the foregoing, we have no derivative financial instruments or derivative commodity instruments. We invest cash in excess of current operating requirements in short-term certificates of deposit and money market instruments in multiple financial institutions.

Interest rate risk. We manage interest rate risk by investing excess funds in cash equivalents and A rated marketable securities bearing variable interest rates, which are tied to various market indices. Our future investment income may fall short of expectations due to changes in interest rates or we may suffer losses in principal if we are forced to sell securities that have declined in market value due to changes in interest rates. At September 30, 2013, a 10% increase or decrease in interest rates would not have a material impact on our future earnings, fair values, or cash flows. For information regarding our variable rate debt, see *Market risk* above.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective, as of September 30, 2013, in ensuring that material information relating to us required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

Based on an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (who is our principal executive officer) and our Chief Financial Officer (who is our principal financial officer), there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

None.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in the *Risk Factors* section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

On April 25, 2013, our Board of Directors authorized the University to repurchase up to an additional \$25.0 million (\$75.0 million total) of common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The Board of Directors also extended the expiration date on the repurchase authorization to September 30, 2014. Repurchases occur at the University's discretion. Repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant. During the three months ended September 30, 2013, we repurchased 15,400 shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$0.5 million. At September 30, 2013, there remains \$27.8 million available under our share repurchase authorization, which totaled \$75.0 million at September 30, 2013.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth our share repurchases of common stock during each period in the third quarter of fiscal 2013:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program | Maximum Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 1, 2013 July 31, 2013 | 15,000 | \$ 33.69 | 15,000 | \$ 27,840,000 |
| August 1, 2013 August 31, 2013 | 400 | \$ 32.74 | 400 | \$ 27,827,000 |
| September 1, 2013 September 30, 2013 | | | | \$ 27,827,000 |
| Total | 15,400 | \$ 33.67 | 15,400 | \$ 27,827,000 |

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Exhibits**

(a) Exhibits

| Number | Description | Method of Filing |
|---------------|---|--|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 6 to the University's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on November 12, 2008. |
| 3.2 | Second Amended and Restated Bylaws. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the University's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 2, 2010. |
| 4.1 | Specimen of Stock Certificate. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 2 to the University's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on September 29, 2008. |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |

This certification is being furnished solely to accompany this report pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, and is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filings of the University, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Date: October 29, 2013

By: /s/ Daniel E. Bachus
Daniel E. Bachus
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting
Officer)

30

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Number | Description | Method of Filing |
|---------------|---|--|
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 6 to the University's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on November 12, 2008. |
| 3.2 | Second Amended and Restated Bylaws. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the University's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on August 2, 2010. |
| 4.1 | Specimen of Stock Certificate. | Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 2 to the University's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on September 29, 2008. |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. | Filed herewith. |

This certification is being furnished solely to accompany this report pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, and is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filings of the University, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.