Lespine Catherine Form 3 August 31, 2012

FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement CAREER EDUCATION CORP [CECO] A Lespine Catherine (Month/Day/Year) 08/21/2012 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person SCHAUMBURG, ILÂ 60173 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Dir Gen Inseec Group Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) **Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned** 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock 18,934 (1) Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a

 $Table\ II\ -\ Derivative\ Securities\ Beneficially\ Owned\ (\textit{e.g.},\ puts,\ calls,\ warrants,\ options,\ convertible\ securities)$

currently valid OMB control number.

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security		4. Conversion or Exercise	5. Ownership Form of	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)	
			(Instr. 4)		Price of	Price of Derivative		
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect		

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

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
Treporting of their relation relations	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
Lespine Catherine 231 N. MARTINGALE ROAD SCHAUMBURG, Â ILÂ 60173	Â	Â	Dir Gen Inseec Group	Â			

Signatures

By: Gail B Rago, pursuant to POA For: Catherine
Lespine

08/31/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes 12,134 unvested restricted shares and 4,200 shares which have vested but remain subject to restrictions on transfer, granted pursuant to the Career Education Corporation 2008 Incentive Compensation Plan.
- (2) Immediately exercisable.
- (3) Exercisable in four equal annual installments on each of March 3,2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; however, the underlying shares cannot be transferred until March 3, 2014 except in limited circumstances.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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