

Budlong Thomas G
Form 4
March 17, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Budlong Thomas G

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CAREER EDUCATION CORP
[CECO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
03/13/2008

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Sr. VP, Org. Eff. and Admin.

CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION, 2895 GREENSPPOINT PARKWAY, SUITE 600

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount (D) Price | | |
| Common Stock | 03/13/2008 | | A | | 21,750 <u>(1)</u> | A | \$ 0 38,750 D |

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

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 13.32 | 03/13/2008 | | A | 39,500 | <u>(2)</u> 03/12/2018 | Common Stock 39,500 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Budlong Thomas G
CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION
2895 GREENSPPOINT PARKWAY, SUITE 600
HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169

Sr. VP, Org. Eff. and Admin.

Signatures

/s/ Thomas G. Budlong 03/17/2008

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

This grant of 21,750 shares of restricted stock was approved by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors on

(1) March 13, 2008. This number represents the maximum number of shares that could become vested assuming full satisfaction of all vesting requirements.

(2) Exercisable in four equal annual installments on each of March 13, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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