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

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

OMB APPROVAL

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6. Individual or Joint/Group

Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting

Form filed by More than One

Person

Reporting Person

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Wheaton Jeremy J	Statement		³ 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CAREER EDUCATION CORP [CECO]			
(Last) (First) (Middle)	01/21/2011	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			
CARFER EDUCATION			• • •			

(Check all applicable)

(give title below) (specify below)

CEO of CTU

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Director

_X__Officer

10% Owner

_ Other

CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION, 2895 GREENSPOINT PARKWAY -SUITE 600

(Street)

HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILÂ 60195

(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned				
1.Title of Securi (Instr. 4)	ty		2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)		
Common Sto	ck		9,921.2894 <u>(1)</u>	D	Â		

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

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

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

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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	(Instr. 4)		Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
			Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	03/12/2018	Common Stock	7,500	\$ 13.32	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	05/16/2012	Common Stock	3,000	\$ 22.07	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(<u>3)</u>	02/24/2019	Common Stock	5,182	\$ 26.15	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(4)	03/02/2020	Common Stock	5,592	\$ 29.02	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	05/18/2013	Common Stock	9,000	\$ 29.35	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	03/18/2017	Common Stock	8,000	\$ 29.68	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	05/17/2016	Common Stock	7,500	\$ 30.8	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	05/19/2015	Common Stock	15,000	\$ 34.7	D	Â
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	05/20/2014	Common Stock	12,000	\$ 62.56	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address		Relationships				
		10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Wheaton Jeremy J CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION 2895 GREENSPOINT PARKWAY - SUITE 600 HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60195	Â	Â	CEO of CTU	Â		
Signatures						
By: Gail B. Rago, pursuant to POA For: Jeremy J. Wheaton	y J. 01/28/2011					
**Signature of Reporting Person		Da	te			

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) a. 5.2894 shares which were purchased under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, a Section 423 plan exempt from Section 16(a) and 16(b) of the SEC Act of 1934 pursuant to Rule 16b-3(c) of the Act. b. 6403 restricted shares granted by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors. This number represents the maximum number of shares that have or could become vested assuming full satisfaction of all vesting requirements, c. 3513 shares acquired pursuant to vesting of restricted stock awards

granted by the Compensation Committee.

- (2) Immediately exercisable.
- (3) Immediately as to the 1,295 shares of the underlying shares of Common Stock and the remaining underlying shares become exercisable in three equal annual installments on February 25, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- (4) Exercisable in four equal annual installments on each of March 3, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Exhibit List: Exhibit 24 Power of Attorney

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.