

Gilbert Carol S  
 Form 4  
 March 13, 2012

**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 \*  
 Gilbert Carol S

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC [APEI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 111 WEST CONGRESS STREET  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/09/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 EVP, Programs and Marketing

CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock, par value \$.01	03/09/2012		M		1,668	A	\$ 1.04 41,799
Common Stock, par value \$.01	03/09/2012		S		1,668	D	\$ 39.1757 40,131
Common Stock, par value \$.01	03/12/2012		M		6,332	A	\$ 1.04 46,463
Common Stock, par	03/12/2012		S		6,332	D	\$ 39.3588 40,131

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value \$.01

Common  
 Stock, par 03/12/2012 M 5,475 A \$ 20 45,606 D  
 value \$.01

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

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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)	8. Amount or Number of Shares	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 1.04	03/09/2012		M	1,668	(1) 11/29/2014	Common Stock	1,668	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 1.04	03/12/2012		M	6,332	(1) 11/29/2014	Common Stock	6,332	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 20	03/12/2012		M	5,475	(1) 11/07/2014	Common Stock	5,475	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gilbert Carol S  
111 WEST CONGRESS STREET  
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

EVP, Programs and Marketing

## Signatures

/s/ Harry T.  
Wilkins

03/13/2012

\*\*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).
- (1) As of the date hereof, all shares underlying the option were exercisable.

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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