

CAREER EDUCATION CORP
Form DEFA14A
May 16, 2006

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Career Education Corporation
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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[The following materials were sent to Career Education Corporation's stockholders on or about May 16, 2006.]

URGENT

Dear Stockholder:

We wanted you to be aware of the two attached press releases from Career Education Corporation, both of which contain information we believe you will find important, relevant and timely. We urge you to read both releases carefully and to consider the facts we have felt it vital to make public.

The first release includes both a strong statement of support from our largest stockholder, Ariel Capital Management, and a letter from Career Education's board of directors, addressing the misinformation in Steven Bostic's recent letter to shareholders. Among other points, the board notes that Jon Coover, the purported author of a letter to Mr. Bostic attacking Career Education, had been terminated from the company for cause. The second release announces another important legal victory for Career Education, the fourth in a series of positive steps for the company over the past two months.

As you make your final decision regarding your vote, we ask that you consider the facts carefully and that you not be swayed by this kind of misleading material. Thank you for taking the time to understand the truth behind the issues.

Sincerely,

/s/ John M. Larson
John M. Larson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Career Education's Largest Stockholder Votes in Favor of Company's Director Nominees; Career Education Responds to Dissident's Misleading Proxy Materials

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL, MAY 16, 2006 Career Education Corporation (NASDAQ: CECO) today announced that its largest institutional stockholder, Ariel Capital Management, LLC, has informed the company that it has voted its 12.9 million shares, representing approximately 13% of Career Education's outstanding shares, in favor of the company's proxy and its director nominees.

Having heard the positions of both the company and its dissident, Steven Bostic, we came to the conclusion that the current Career Education board and management team are the best equipped to take the company forward. We have cast our votes in support of the company's director nominees," said John W. Rogers, Jr., Ariel's Founder, Chairman, Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer.

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Career Education's board also responded today to a letter circulated by Bostic, allegedly written to him by a disgruntled former Career Education employee, who was terminated for cause in 2004.

Dear Mr. Bostic:

As you know, but fail to mention, Jon Coover, the purported author of the letter distributed by you to certain of Career Education's stockholders, was a disgruntled former CEC employee who was terminated for cause by the company in 2004. Mr. Coover's perspective on events that occurred subsequent to CEC's acquisition of AIU is clearly at odds with what actually transpired.

Last week we sent you a letter asking that you reply to nine key questions that we believe are relevant and important to

our stockholders. Instead of telling the shareholders the truth about what you really intend to do to and at Career Education Corporation, you have chosen to disseminate a letter filled with inaccuracies. It is a shame, because Career Education stockholders deserve better than that.

We and the CEC stockholders are still awaiting your response, Mr. Bostic.

Sincerely yours,

The Board of Directors of Career Education Corporation

About Career Education Corporation

The colleges, schools and universities that are part of the Career Education Corporation (CEC) family offer high quality education to more than 95,000 students across the world in a variety of career-oriented disciplines. The 80-plus campuses that serve these students are located throughout the U. S., Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates and offer doctoral, master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees and diploma and certificate programs. Approximately one third of students attend the web-based virtual campuses of American InterContinental University Online and Colorado Technical University Online.

Career Education is an industry leader whose gold-standard brands are recognized globally. Those brands include, among others, the Le Cordon Bleu schools of North America; the Harrington School of Design; the Brooks Institute of Photography; the Katharine Gibbs schools; American InterContinental University; Colorado Technical University and Sanford Brown. The mission of CEC, through its schools, its educators, and its employees is education their primary goal, to enable students to graduate successfully and pursue rewarding careers.

For more information see www.careered.com. The company's website also has a detailed listing of individual campus locations and web links for its 80-plus colleges, schools and universities.

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Career Education Corporation Announces Legal Victory in California; Department of Consumer Affairs Invalidates Actions of California Bureau against Brooks Institute

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL, MAY 16, 2006 Career Education Corporation (NASDAQ: CECO) announced today a final decision by the California Department of Consumer Affairs (the Department) vacating in its entirety the Notice of Conditional Approval to Operate issued last summer by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Vocational Education (the Bureau) to Brooks Institute of Photography. The Department directed the Bureau to review Brooks Institute's license renewal application, to conduct a qualitative review and assessment of the school pursuant to the appropriate sections of the California Education Code, and extended Brooks Institute's current approval to operate.

We are pleased that our position has been vindicated in this matter," said Janice L. Block, Chief Legal Officer for Career Education Corporation. We look forward to moving past this and continuing to enhance the outstanding education offered by Brooks Institute. This decision further underscores the progress Career Education is achieving in resolving past regulatory and litigation issues.

In March of this year, an administrative law judge ruled that the Bureau improperly issued to Brooks Institute the Notice of Conditional Approval to Operate, and that the Notice was invalid. The judge found that the Bureau failed to follow the California Education Code and its own regulations. However, that decision was subject to a final determination by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

In a 26-page decision by the Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Department reached the same conclusion as the administrative law judge, and vacated the Notice of Conditional Approval. The Department found that the Bureau did not comply with the mandatory provisions of the Education Code, and that it wrongly denied Brooks Institute an

opportunity to contest the Bureau's action prior to the time it was imposed. This violates the most basic principles of Due Process as found in the Federal and State Constitutions, as well as the Administrative Procedures Act and the Bureau's own enabling legislation and regulations, the Department said. The Department further found that the Bureau's failure to provide Brooks Institute with notice and an opportunity to be heard deprived Brooks of the opportunity to have a qualitative review and assessment conducted by a visiting committee.

The Brooks Institute of Photography has just celebrated its 60th year educating students in the visual media. With a campus in Santa Barbara, California and a campus in Ventura with two sound stages for filmmaking, the school has over 2200 students pursuing Masters, Bachelors, Associates and diploma programs in fields such as photography, film and video production, visual communications and visual journalism. Graduates have gone on to work for distinguished organizations, such as National Geographic, Smithsonian, the Los Angeles Times and other national media outlets, Hallmark Publishing, Cousteau Society, HBO, Kodak and literally scores of other leaders in visual media fields.

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