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CAREER EDUCATION CORP Form 8-K February 18, 2003

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): February 17, 2003

Career Education Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware 0-23245 36-3932190

(State or Other Jurisdiction (Commission (IRS Employer Identification No.) of incorporation) File Number)

2895 Greenspoint Parkway, Suite 600, Hoffman Estates, IL (Zip Code)

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (847) 781-3600

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On February 18, 2003, the Registrant issued the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1. The information contained in this press release is incorporated herein by reference.

Career Education Corporation acquired Formastrat SA and its subsidiaries, also known as the INSEEC Group, for approximately \$20.0 million. This purchase price includes the assumption of debt of approximately \$3.0 million.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1

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Press Release of Registrant, dated February 18, 2003.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: February 18, 2003

CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION

By: /s/ PATRICK K. PESCH

Patrick K. Pesch

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary

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Exhibit Index

| Exhibit Number | Description of Exhibit |
|-------------------|---|
| 99.1 | Press Release of Registrant, dated February 18, 2003. |

QuickLinks

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

SIGNATURE

Exhibit Index