CAREER EDUCATION CORP Form SC 13G/A February 13, 2004

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13GA\* (Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13d-1(b), (c) AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO 13d-2(b)

Career Education Corp.
 (Name of Issuer)

Common Stock (Title of Class of Securities)

141665109 (CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003 (Date of event which requires filing of this statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule 13G is filed:

[ ] Rule 13d-1(b)

[X] Rule 13d-1(c)

[ ] Rule 13d-1(d)

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\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting

person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

	OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  Lone Spruce, L.P.		
(2)	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP **	(a) (b)	
(3)	SEC USE ONLY		
(4)	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  Delaware		
NUMBER OF SHARES	(5) SOLE VOTING POWER -0-		
BENEFICIALLY	(6) SHARED VOTING POWER 259,504		
EACH REPORTING	(7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-		
PERSON WITH	(8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 259,504		
(9)	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 259,504		
(10)	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES **		[ ]
(11)	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 0.3%		
(12) TY	PE OF REPORTING PERSON **		
	** SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!		
CUSIP No. 14	13G Page 3 of	13 Pa	ges
(1)	NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO.  OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  Lone Balsam, L.P.		
(2)	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP **	(a) (b)	[X]
(3)	SEC USE ONLY		
(4)	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  Delaware		

NUMBER OF	(5) SOLE VOTING POWER -0-		
SHARES			
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY	(6) SHARED VOTING POWER 569,425		
EACH	(7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-		
REPORTING			
PERSON WITH	(8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 569,425		
	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 569,425		
(10)	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES **	]	]
(11)	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)		
	0.6%		
(12) TY	PE OF REPORTING PERSON ** PN		
CUSIP No. 14	1665109 13G Page 4 o	f 13 Pag	es
, ,	NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Lone Sequoia, L.P.		
(2)	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP	(a) [	X]
(3)	SEC USE ONLY		
(4)	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  Delaware		
	(5) SOLE VOTING POWER -0-		
SHARES  BENEFICIALLY  OWNED BY	(6) SHARED VOTING POWER 475,720		
EACH	(7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-		

REPORTING					
PERSON WITH	(8) S	HARED DISPOSI	ITIVE POWER	475 <b>,</b> 720	
(9)		E AMOUNT BENE REPORTING PER		WNED 475,720	
(10)		X IF THE AGGE 9) EXCLUDES ( 			[ ]
(11)		OF CLASS REPI T IN ROW (9)	RESENTED		
				0.5% 	
(12)	TYPE OF 1	REPORTING PER	RSON **	PN	
		** SEE INSTRU	JCTIONS BEF	ORE FILLING OUT!	
CUSIP No. 14	1665109		13G	Page 5	of 13 Pages
				<u> </u>	,
	I.R.S. ID	REPORTING PERENTIFICATION PERSONS (ENTI	NO. ITIES ONLY)	one Pine Associa	tes LLC
(2)	CHECK THE	APPROPRIATE	BOX IF A MI	EMBER OF A GROUP	**
					(a) [X] (b) [ ]
(3)	SEC USE O	 NLY			
(4)	CITIZENSH	IP OR PLACE (		TION	
NUMBER OF	(5) S	OLE VOTING PO	 )WER	-0-	
SHARES				·	
BENEFICIALLY	(6) Si	HARED VOTING	POWER	1,304,649	
OWNED BY					
EACH	(7) S	OLE DISPOSITI	IVE POWER		
REPORTING				-0-	
PERSON WITH	(8) SI	HARED DISPOSI	ITIVE POWER	1,304,649	
(9)		E AMOUNT BENE REPORTING PER		WNED	
	DI LACE			1 204 640	
	DI EACH			1,304,649	

(11)		T OF CLAS UNT IN RO		INTED	4.00		
					1.3% 		
(12) T	YPE OF R	EPORTING	PERSON **		00		
		** SEE	INSTRUCTI	ONS BEFO	RE FILLING OUT!		
CUSIP No. 1	41665109		13	G	Page 6 of	f 13 P	ages
(1)	I.R.S.	F REPORTI IDENTIFIC E PERSONS	ATION NO.	S ONLY)	one Pine Capital I	LLC	
(2)	CHECK T	 HE APPROP	RIATE BOX	IF A ME	MBER OF A GROUP	 * *	
							[X] []
(3)	SEC USE	ONLY					
(4)	CITIZEN	 SHIP OR P	LACE OF C		CION		
NUMBER OF	(5)	SOLE VOT	ING POWER				
SHARES					-0-		
BENEFICIALL OWNED BY	Y (6)	SHARED V	OTING POW	IER	8,421,237		
EACH	(7)	SOLE DIS	POSITIVE	POWER	-0-		
REPORTING							
PERSON WITH	(8)	SHARED D	ISPOSITIV	E POWER	8,421,237		
(9)		ATE AMOUN H REPORTI			NED 8,421,237		
(10)		BOX IF TH					[ ]
(11)		T OF CLAS UNT IN RO		NTED	8.4%		
(12)	TYPE O	F REPORTI	NG PERSON	**	IA		
		** SEE	INSTRUCTI	ONS BEFO	RE FILLING OUT!		

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(1)	NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)	Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
(2)	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A M	EMBER OF A GROUP **  (a) [X]  (b) [ ]
(3)	SEC USE ONLY	
(4)	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZA United States	TION
NUMBER OF	(5) SOLE VOTING POWER	-0-
BENEFICIALLY	Y (6) SHARED VOTING POWER	9,725,886
EACH REPORTING	(7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	-0-
PERSON WITH	(8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	9,725,886
(9)	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY O BY EACH REPORTING PERSON	WNED 9,725,886
(10)	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOU IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHA	
(11)	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)	9.7%
(12) T	YPE OF REPORTING PERSON **	IN
	** SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEF	ORE FILLING OUT!
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Item 1(a).	Name of Issuer:	
The nar	me of the issuer is Career Educat	ion Corp. (the "Company").
Item 1(b).	Address of Issuer's Principal	Executive Offices:
	mpany's principal executive offic ite 600, Hoffman Estates, IL 6019	

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

This statement is filed by:

- (i) Lone Spruce, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Lone Spruce"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock (defined in Item 2(d) below) directly owned by it;
- (ii) Lone Balsam, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Lone Balsam"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by it;
- (iii) Lone Sequoia, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Lone Sequoia"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by it;
- (iv) Lone Pine Associates LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Lone Pine"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by Lone Spruce, Lone Balsam and Lone Sequoia;
- (v) Lone Pine Capital LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Lone Pine Capital"), which serves as investment manager to Lone Cypress, Ltd. ("Lone Cypress") and Lone Kauri, Ltd. ("Lone Kauri"), each a Cayman Islands exempted company, with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by each of Lone Cypress and Lone Kauri;
- (vi) Stephen F. Mandel, Jr. ("Mr. Mandel"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by each of Lone Spruce, Lone Balsam, Lone Sequoia, Lone Cypress and Lone Kauri.

The foregoing persons are hereinafter sometimes collectively referred to as the "Reporting Persons". Any disclosures herein with respect to persons other than the Reporting Persons are made on information and belief after making inquiry to the appropriate party.

The address of the business office of each of the Reporting Persons is Two Greenwich Plaza, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

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Item 2(c). Citizenship:

Lone Spruce, Lone Balsam and Lone Sequoia are limited partnerships organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Lone Pine Associates LLC and Lone Pine Capital LLC are limited liability companies organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Mr. Mandel is a United States citizen.

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value (the "Common Stock")

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

141665109

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) [ ] Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act,
- (b) [ ] Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act,

[ ] Insurance Company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the (C) Act, (d) [ ] Investment Company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, [ ] Investment Adviser in accordance with Rule (e) 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E), [ ] Employee Benefit Plan or Endowment Fund in accordance (f) with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F), [ ] Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance (g) with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G), [ ] Savings Association as defined in Section 3(b) of the (h) Federal Deposit Insurance Act, (i) [ ] Church Plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, [ ] Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J). (j) If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), check the box. [X] CUSIP No. 141665109 13G Page 10 of 13 Pages Item 4. Ownership. A. Lone Spruce, L.P. (a) Amount beneficially owned: 259,504 (b) Percent of class: 0.3%. The percentages used herein and in the rest of Item 4 are calculated based upon the 100,150,330 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of November 10, 2003, as reported in the Company's Form 10-Q for the period ending September 30, 2003. (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 259,504 (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 259,504 B. Lone Balsam, L.P. (a) Amount beneficially owned: 569,425 (b) Percent of class: 0.6% (c)(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 569,425 (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 569,425 C. Lone Sequoia, L.P. (a) Amount beneficially owned: 475,720 (b) Percent of class: 0.5% (c)(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 475,720 (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-

(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 475,720

D. Lone Pine Associates LLC

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,304,649
- (b) Percent of class: 1.3%
- (c)(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 1,304,649
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 1,304,649
- E. Lone Pine Capital LLC
  - (a) Amount beneficially owned: 8,421,237
  - (b) Percent of class: 8.4%
  - (c)(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
    - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 8,421,237
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 8,421,237

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- F. Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
  - (a) Amount beneficially owned: 9,725,886
  - (b) Percent of class: 9.7%
  - (c)(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
    - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 9,725,886
    - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-
    - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 9,725,886
- Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Lone Pine, the general partner of Lone Spruce, Lone Sequoia and Lone Balsam, has the power to direct the affairs of Lone Spruce, Lone Sequoia and Lone Balsam, including decisions respecting the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of shares. Mr. Mandel is the Managing Member of Lone Pine and in that capacity directs its operations. Lone Cypress and Lone Kauri, clients of Lone Pine Capital of which Mr. Mandel is the Managing Member, have the power to direct the receipt of dividends from or the proceeds of the sale of shares.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

See Item 2.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

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Item 10. Certification.

Each of the Reporting Persons hereby makes the following certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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#### SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of our knowledge and belief, the undersigned certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATED: February 13, 2004

LONE SPRUCE, L.P.

By: Lone Pine Associates LLC, General Partner

By: /s/ Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.
Managing Member

LONE BALSAM, L.P.

By: Lone Pine Associates LLC, General Partner

By: /s/ Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Managing Member

LONE SEQUOIA, L.P.

By: Lone Pine Associates LLC, General Partner

By: /s/ Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Managing Member

LONE PINE ASSOCIATES LLC

LONE PINE CAPITAL LLC

By: /s/ Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.

Managing Member

STEPHEN F. MANDEL, JR.

/s/ Stephen F. Mandel, Jr.