CAREER EDUCATION CORP Form SC 13G/A February 13, 2006

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G (Rule 13d-102)

Career Education Corp.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

141665109

(CUSIP Number)

DECEMBER 31, 2005

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

 $\qquad \qquad \text{Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:} \\$

- (x) Rule 13d-1(b)
- () Rule 13d-1(c)
- () Rule 13d-1(d)

*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 the purpose 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).

(Continued on following page(s))

NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

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

TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC I.R.S. #13-3586142

2.	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER C	DF A GROUP	(a) () (b) ()	
3.	SEC USE ONLY			
4.	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION			
	Delaware			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:				
	5. SOLE VOTING POWER	811,193		
	6. SHARED VOTING POWER	0		
	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	811,193		
	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	0		
9.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 811,193	EACH REPORTING	G PERSON	
10.	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ()			
11.	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT	IN ROW 9		
	0.83%			
12.	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON			
	IA			
1.	NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)			
	Teachers Advisors, Inc. I.R.S. # 13-3760073			
2.	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER C	DF A GROUP	(a) () (b) ()	
3.	SEC USE ONLY			
4.	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION			
	Delaware			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:				

29,094

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

SHARED VOTING POWER 6. 0

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 29,094

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 9. 29,094
- CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ()
- PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 11.

0.03%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

ΙA

Item 1(a). NAME OF ISSUER:

Career Education Corp.

Item 1(b). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

> 2895 Greenspoint Parkway Suite 600

Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

NAME, ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE, AND Items 2(a)-2(c).

CITIZENSHIP OF PERSONS FILING:

TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC

("Investment Management")

730 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10017 Citizenship: Delaware

Teachers Advisors, Inc. ("Advisors")

730 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10017

Citizenship: Delaware

Item 2(d). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES:

Common Stock

CUSIP NUMBER: 141665109 Item 2(e).

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:

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

(a)	()	Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.
(b)	()	Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act.
(c)	()	Insurance Company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act.
(d)	()	Investment Company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
(e)	(x)	An investment adviser in accordance with Rule $13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)$.
(f)	()	An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).
(g)	()	A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G).
(h)	()	A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.
(i)	()	A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section $3(c)(14)$ of the Investment Company Act.
(j)	()	Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).
ADVISO	RS	
(a)	()	Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.
(b)	()	Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act.
(c)	()	Insurance Company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act.
(d)	()	Investment Company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
(e)	(x)	An investment adviser in accordance with Rule $13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)$.
(f)	()	An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule $13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).$
(g)	()	A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G).
(h)	()	A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.
(i)	()	A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an
		investment company under Section $3(c)(14)$ of the Investment Company Act.

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), check this box. ()

Item 4. OWNERSHIP.

(a) Aggregate amount beneficially owned: 840,287 (Exhibit A)

(b) Percent of class: 0.86 %

(c) Powers of shares:

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT ADVISORS

Sole Voting Power: 811,193 29,094

Shared Voting Power: 0 0

Sole Dispositive Power: 811,193 29,094

Shared Dispositive Power: 0 0

Item 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following (X). (see Exhibit A)

Item 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON.

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

Item 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP.

Not Applicable

Item 10. CERTIFICATION.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and 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.

SIGNATURE.

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

Date: February 10, 2006

TIAA-CREF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Maureen M. Milet

Maureen M. Milet Compliance Officer

TEACHERS ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ Maureen M. Milet

Maureen M. Milet Compliance Officer

EXHIBIT A

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP.

TIAA-CREF Investment Management, LLC ("Investment Management") acts as an investment adviser to the College Retirement Equities Fund ("CREF"), a registered investment company, and may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of 811,193 shares of Issuer's common stock owned by CREF. Teachers Advisors, Inc. ("Advisors") is the investment adviser to four registered investment companies, TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds ("Mutual Funds"), TIAA-CREF Institutional Mutual Funds ("Institutional Funds"), TIAA-CREF Life Funds ("Life Funds") and TIAA Separate Account VA-1 ("VA-1"), as well as the TIAA-CREF Asset Management Commingled Funds Trust I ("TCAM Funds"), and may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of 29,094 shares of Issuer's common stock owned by Mutual Funds, Institutional Funds, Life Funds, VA-1 and TCAM Funds. Investment Management and Advisors are reporting their combined holdings for the purpose of administrative convenience. These shares were acquired in the ordinary course of business, and not with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing control of the Issuer. Each of Investment Management and Advisors expressly disclaims beneficial ownership of the other's securities holdings and each disclaims that it is a member of a "group" with the other.