### 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): May 2, 2006

# **CERUS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State of jurisdiction) 0-21937 (Commission File No.) 2411 Stanwell Drive 68-0262011 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

Concord, California 94520

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (925) 288-6000

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

" Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

" Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

" Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

" Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On May 2, 2006, Cerus Corporation (the Company ) announced its financial results for its first quarter ended March 31, 2006. A copy of the Company s press release, entitled Cerus Corporation Announces First Quarter Results, is furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 as Exhibit 99.1 hereto.

#### Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

- (d) Exhibits
  - 99.1 Press Release, dated May 2, 2006, entitled Cerus Corporation Announces First Quarter Results.

#### 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.

#### CERUS CORPORATION

Dated: May 2, 2006

By: /s/ William J. Dawson William J. Dawson Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

ExhibitNumberDescription99.1Press Release, dated May 2, 2006, entitledCerus Corporation Announces First Quarter Results.