

Edgar Filing: CAREER EDUCATION CORP - Form SC 13D

CAREER EDUCATION CORP  
Form SC 13D  
December 21, 2006

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

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

CAREER EDUCATION CORPORATION

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, Par Value \$0.01 Per Share

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

141665109

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

Gregory D. Hitchan  
Blum Capital Partners, L.P.  
909 Montgomery Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(415) 434-1111

-----  
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person  
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

December 12, 2006

-----  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Section 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box [ ].

Note: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Section 240.13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

\*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 disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on 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).

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-----  
1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

BLUM CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.

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S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON 94-3205364

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a) [x]  
(b) [x]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. SOURCE OF FUNDS\* See Item 3

5. CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED  
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e) [ ]

6. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION California

7. SOLE VOTING POWER -0-

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY EACH  
PERSON WITH

8. SHARED VOTING POWER 6,550,000\*\*

9. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-

10. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,550,000\*\*

11. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,550,000\*\*

12. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES  
CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

13. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11) 6.9%\*\*

14. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON PN, IA

\*\* See Item 5

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON RICHARD C. BLUM & ASSOCIATES, INC.

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON 94-2967812

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a) [x]  
(b) [x]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. SOURCE OF FUNDS\* See Item 3

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-----  
5. CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED  
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e) [ ]

6. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION California

-----  
7. SOLE VOTING POWER -0-

NUMBER OF  
SHARES -----  
8. SHARED VOTING POWER 6,550,000\*\*

BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY EACH  
PERSON WITH -----  
9. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-

-----  
10. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,550,000\*\*

-----  
11. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,550,000\*\*

-----  
12. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES  
CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

-----  
13. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11) 6.9%\*\*

-----  
14. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON CO

-----  
\*\* See Item 5

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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-----  
1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.L.C.

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON 04-3809436

-----  
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a) [x]  
(b) [x]

-----  
3. SEC USE ONLY

-----  
4. SOURCE OF FUNDS\* See Item 3

-----  
5. CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED  
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e) [ ]

-----  
6. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware

-----  
7. SOLE VOTING POWER -0-

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NUMBER OF SHARES	8. SHARED VOTING POWER	6,550,000**
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON WITH	9. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	-0-
	10. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	6,550,000**

11. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,550,000\*\*

12. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

13. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11) 6.9%\*\*

14. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON OO (Limited Liability Company)

\*\* See Item 5

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.P.  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON 02-0742606

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a)   
(b)

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. SOURCE OF FUNDS\* See Item 3

5. CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e)

6. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware

7. SOLE VOTING POWER -0-

NUMBER OF SHARES	8. SHARED VOTING POWER	6,550,000**
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON WITH	9. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	-0-
	10. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	6,550,000**

11. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,550,000\*\*

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12. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

13. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11) 6.9%\*\*

14. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON PN

\*\* See Item 5

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON SADDLEPOINT PARTNERS GP, L.L.C.  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON 83-0424234

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a) [x]  
(b) [x]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. SOURCE OF FUNDS\* See Item 3

5. CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) or 2(e) [ ]

6. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware

7. SOLE VOTING POWER -0-

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON WITH  
8. SHARED VOTING POWER 6,550,000\*\*  
9. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-

10. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,550,000\*\*

11. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,550,000\*\*

12. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

13. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11) 6.9%\*\*

14. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON OO (Limited Liability Company)

\*\* See Item 5

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Item 1. Security and Issuer  
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This Schedule 13D relates to shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Common Stock") of Career Education Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Issuer"). The principal executive office and mailing address of the Issuer is 2895 Greenspoint Parkway, Suite 600, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

Item 2. Identity and Background  
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This Schedule 13D is being filed by Blum Capital Partners, L.P., a California limited partnership, ("Blum LP"); Richard C. Blum & Associates, Inc., a California corporation ("RCBA Inc."); Blum Strategic GP III, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ("Blum GP III"); Blum Strategic GP III, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Blum GP III LP"); and Saddlepoint Partners GP, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ("Saddlepoint GP") (collectively, the "Reporting Persons").

Blum LP is a California limited partnership whose principal business is acting as general partner for investment partnerships and providing investment advisory services. Blum LP is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The sole general partner of Blum LP is RCBA Inc.

The principal business office address of Blum LP and RCBA Inc. is 909 Montgomery Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94133. The names of the executive officers and directors of RCBA Inc., their addresses, citizenship and principal occupations are as follows:

Name and Office Held	Business Address	Citizenship	Principal Occupation or Employment
Richard C. Blum President, Chairman & Director	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	President & Chairman, Blum LP
Nils Colin Lind Managing Partner & Director	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA and Norway	Managing Partner, Blum LP
John H. Park Partner	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
Gregory L. Jackson Partner	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
Jane J. Su Partner	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400	USA	Partner, Blum LP

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Name and Office Held	Business Address	Citizen-ship	Principal Occupation or Employment
David H.S. Chung Partner	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
Gregory D. Hitchan Partner, Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Secretary	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Secretary, Blum LP
Marc T. Scholvinck Partner, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant Secretary & Director	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner & Chief Financial Officer, Blum LP
William Scott Hartman Partner	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP

Blum GP III is a Delaware limited liability company whose principal business is acting as the general partner of Blum GP III LP, a Delaware limited partnership, whose principal business is acting as the general partner of Blum Strategic Partners III, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Blum Strategic III") whose principal office is 909 Montgomery Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94133.

The principal business office address of Blum GP III and Blum GP III LP is 909 Montgomery Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94133. The names of the managing members and members of Blum GP III, their addresses, citizenship and principal occupations are as follows:

Name and Office Held	Business Address	Citizen-ship	Principal Occupation or Employment
Richard C. Blum Managing Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	President & Chairman, Blum LP
Nils Colin Lind Managing Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA and Norway	Managing Partner, Blum LP
John H. Park Managing Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
Gregory L. Jackson Managing Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400	USA	Partner, Blum LP

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San Francisco, CA 94133

Jane J. Su Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
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Name and Office Held	Business Address	Citizen- ship	Principal Occupation or Employment
David H.S. Chung Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP
Gregory D. Hitchan Managing Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Secretary, Blum LP
Marc T. Scholvinck Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner & Chief Financial Officer, Blum LP
William Scott Hartman Member	909 Montgomery St. Suite 400 San Francisco, CA 94133	USA	Partner, Blum LP

Saddlepoint GP is a Delaware limited liability company whose principal business is acting as the general partner of Saddlepoint Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Saddlepoint LP"), and Saddlepoint Partners (Cayman), L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership ("Saddlepoint (Cayman) LP"). The principal business office address of Saddlepoint GP, Saddlepoint LP and Saddlepoint (Cayman) LP is 909 Montgomery Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94133. Blum LP is the managing member of Saddlepoint GP. RCBA Inc. is the sole general partner of Blum LP. The principal business office for Blum LP and RCBA Inc. and the names of the executive officers and directors of RCBA Inc. and their addresses, citizenship and principal occupations are disclosed above.

To the best knowledge of the Reporting Persons, none of the entities or persons identified in this Item 2 has, during the past five years, been convicted of any criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors), nor been a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

### Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Considerations

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The source of funds for the purchases of securities was the working capital of Blum LP's limited partnerships and investment advisory clients, the partnership for which Blum GP III LP serves as the sole general partner and the partnerships for which Saddlepoint GP serves as the general partner.

### Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

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The purpose of the acquisition of the Common Stock is for investment, and the acquisitions of the Common Stock were made in the ordinary course of business and were not made for the purpose of acquiring control of the Issuer.

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Although no Reporting Person has any specific plan or proposal to acquire or dispose of the Common Stock, consistent with its investment purpose, each Reporting Person at any time and from time to time may acquire additional Common Stock or dispose of any or all of its Common Stock depending upon an ongoing evaluation of the investment in the Common Stock, prevailing market conditions, other investment opportunities, liquidity requirements of the Reporting Persons and/or other investment considerations.

Also, consistent with the investment purpose, the Reporting Persons may engage in communications with one or more shareholders of the Issuer, one or more officers of the Issuer and/or one or more members of the board of directors of the Issuer and/or one or more representatives of the Issuer regarding the Issuer, including but not limited to its operations. The Reporting Persons may discuss ideas that, if effected may result in any of the following: the acquisition by persons of additional Common Stock of the Issuer, an extraordinary corporate transaction involving the Issuer, and/or changes in the board of directors or management of the Issuer.

Except to the extent the foregoing may be deemed a plan or proposal, none of the Reporting Persons has any plans or proposals which relate to, or could result in, any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) through (j), inclusive, of the instructions to Item 4 of Schedule 13D. The Reporting Persons may, at any time and from time to time, review or reconsider their position and/or change their purpose and/or formulate plans or proposals with respect thereto.

### Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

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(a), (b) According to the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 7, 2006, there were 94,774,003 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of November 6, 2006. Based on such information, after taking into account the transactions described in Item 5(c) below, the Reporting Persons report beneficial ownership of the following shares of Common Stock: (i) 1,997,404 shares of Common Stock held by Blum LP and RCBA Inc. on behalf of the limited partnerships for which Blum LP serves as the general partner, which represents 2.1% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock; (ii) 4,126,896 shares of the Common Stock held by Blum GP III which serves as general partner of Blum GP III LP which, in turn, serves as the general partner of Blum Strategic III, which represents 4.4% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock; (iii) 270,900 shares of the Common Stock held by Saddlepoint GP on behalf of a partnership for which it serves as the general partner, which represents 0.3% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock; and (iv) 77,400 shares of the Common Stock that are legally owned by The Nuclear Decommissioning Trust of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. ("Dominion Connecticut"), which represents 0.1% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock and 77,400 shares of the Common Stock that are legally owned by Virginia Electric

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and Power Company Qualified Nuclear Decommissioning Trust ("Virginia Electric"), which represents 0.1% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock (collectively, the "Investment Advisory Clients"), with respect to which Blum LP has voting and investment power. Each Investment Advisory Client has entered into an investment management agreement with Blum LP, but neither Investment Advisory Client has any contract, arrangement or understanding with the other Investment Advisory Client, or any other Reporting Person, with respect to the acquisition, ownership, disposition or voting of any shares of the Common Stock. Each Investment Advisory Client disclaims membership in a group with any Reporting Person or with the other Investment Advisory Client, and each disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares beneficially owned by the Reporting Persons other than for their own account.

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Voting and investment power concerning the above shares are held solely by Blum LP, Blum GP III and Saddlepoint GP. The Reporting Persons therefore may be deemed to be members in a group, in which case the group would be deemed to have beneficial ownership of an aggregate of 6,550,000 shares of the Common Stock, which is 6.9% of the outstanding Common Stock. As the sole general partner of Blum LP, RCBA Inc. is deemed the beneficial owner of the securities over which Blum LP has voting and investment power. The filing of this Schedule shall not be construed as an admission that any of the shareholders, directors or executive officers of RCBA Inc. or the managing members and members of Blum GP III, Blum GP III LP and Saddlepoint GP, is, for any purpose, the beneficial owner of any of the securities that are beneficially owned by RCBA Inc., Blum GP III LP, Blum GP III or Saddlepoint GP.

c) The Reporting Persons effected the following transactions in the Common Stock during the last 60 days:

The Reporting Persons purchased the following number of shares of Common Stock in the open market:

Entity	Trade Date	Shares	Price/Share
-----	-----	-----	-----
Investment partnerships for which Blum LP serves as the general partner.	10-23-06	15,400	21.7500
	10-23-06	5,900	21.7604
	10-23-06	8,800	21.8000
	10-23-06	12,200	21.8450
	10-24-06	166,600	20.8835
	10-24-06	129,100	21.1884
	10-27-06	700	20.9827
	12-12-06	130,000	26.0050
	12-12-06	16,800	26.1500
	12-13-06	23,000	25.2356
	12-14-06	74,600	25.3129
	12-14-06	23,700	25.6797
	12-15-06	300	24.8467
	12-15-06	24,700	24.8500
	12-18-06	126,900	24.7580
	12-19-06	1,100	24.4781
12-20-06	51,100	24.7023	
12-21-06	70,100	24.6131	
12-21-06	58,200	24.6235	

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Entity	Trade Date	Shares	Price/Share
For Blum Strategic III for	10-23-06	108,731	21.7500
which Blum GP III LP	10-23-06	40,941	21.7604
serves as the general partner	10-23-06	61,858	21.8000
and for Blum GP III which	10-23-06	85,300	21.8450
serves as the general	10-24-06	120,000	20.8835
partner for Blum GP III LP.	10-27-06	2,000	20.9827
	12-12-06	180,300	26.0050
	12-12-06	31,800	26.1500
	12-13-06	74,000	25.2356
	12-14-06	273,008	25.3129
	12-14-06	97,300	25.6797
	12-15-06	1,493	24.8467
	12-15-06	101,200	24.8500
	12-18-06	115,007	24.7580
	12-19-06	2,835	24.4781
	12-20-06	45,065	24.7023
	12-21-06	116,600	24.6131
	12-21-06	107,400	24.6235

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Entity	Trade Date	Shares	Price/Share
The partnership for which	10-23-06	1,600	21.7500
Saddlepoint GP serves as	10-23-06	600	21.7604
general partner.	10-23-06	900	21.8000
	10-23-06	1,300	21.8450
	10-24-06	17,400	20.8835
	10-24-06	13,500	21.1884
	12-12-06	35,500	26.0050
	12-12-06	600	26.1500
	12-13-06	1,200	25.2356
	12-14-06	4,400	25.3129
	12-14-06	1,600	25.6797
	12-15-06	1,700	24.8500
	12-18-06	10,700	24.7580
	12-19-06	100	24.4781
	12-20-06	10,800	24.7023
	12-21-06	64,700	24.6131
	12-21-06	2,000	24.6235

Entity	Trade Date	Shares	Price/Share
The Investment Advisory	10-23-06	1,400	21.7500
Clients for which Blum LP	10-23-06	600	21.7604
serves as investment advisor.	10-23-06	800	21.8000
	10-23-06	1,200	21.8450
	10-24-06	16,000	20.8835
	10-24-06	12,400	21.1884
	12-12-06	4,200	26.0050
	12-12-06	800	26.1500
	12-13-06	1,800	25.2356
	12-14-06	6,600	25.3129
	12-14-06	2,400	25.6797
	12-15-06	2,400	24.8500
	12-18-06	15,600	24.7580
	12-20-06	13,000	24.7023

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12-21-06	4,600	24.6131
12-21-06	2,400	24.6235

The Reporting Persons sold the following number of shares of Common Stock in the open market:

Entity	Trade Date	Shares	Price/Share
Investment partnerships for which Blum LP serves as the general partner and on behalf of an entity for which Blum LP serves as investment advisor.	11-28-06	23,000	25.2000
	11-29-06	3,600	24.9853
	11-29-06	25,000	25.0209
	11-30-06	40,040	25.2762
	12-01-06	3,668	25.1382
	12-04-06	16,000	25.9381

(d) and (e) Not applicable.

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Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships with Respect to Securities of the Issuer

None of the Reporting Persons or, to the best knowledge of the Reporting Persons, the other persons named in Item 2, is a party to any contract, arrangement, understanding or relationship with respect to any securities of the Issuer, including but not limited to the transfer or voting of any securities of the Issuer, finder's fees, joint ventures, loan or option arrangements, puts or calls, guarantees of profits, division of profits or loss, or the giving or withholding of proxies, except as noted above, Blum LP has voting and investment power of the shares held by it for the benefit of The Investment Advisory Clients.

Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits

Exhibit A Joint Filing Undertaking.

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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: December 21, 2006

RICHARD C. BLUM & ASSOCIATES, INC.

BLUM CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.

By: Richard C. Blum & Associates, Inc.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

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-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.L.C.

BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.P.  
By: Blum Strategic GP III, L.L.C.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Managing Member

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Managing Member

SADDLEPOINT PARTNERS GP, L.L.C.

By: Blum Capital Partners, L.P.  
Its Managing Member  
By: Richard C. Blum & Associates, Inc.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan,  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

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Exhibit A  
JOINT FILING UNDERTAKING

The undersigned, being duly authorized thereunto, hereby execute this agreement as an exhibit to this Schedule 13D to evidence the agreement of the below-named parties, in accordance with the rules promulgated pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to file this Schedule jointly on behalf of each such party.

Dated: December 21, 2006

RICHARD C. BLUM & ASSOCIATES, INC.

BLUM CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.P.  
By: Richard C. Blum & Associates, Inc.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary

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BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.L.C.

BLUM STRATEGIC GP III, L.P.  
By: Blum Strategic GP III, L.L.C.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

-----  
Gregory D. Hitchan  
Managing Member

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

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Gregory D. Hitchan  
Managing Member

SADDLEPOINT PARTNERS GP, L.L.C.

By: Blum Capital Partners, L.P.  
Its Managing Member  
By: Richard C. Blum & Associates, Inc.  
Its General Partner

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hitchan

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Gregory D. Hitchan,  
Partner, Chief Operating Officer,  
General Counsel and Secretary