

LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORP
Form 424B3
December 09, 2010

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)
[TABLE OF CONTENTS 2](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)3
Registration No. 333-152854

The information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion
Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated December 9, 2010

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated September 12, 2008)

3,908,000 Shares

Lincoln Educational Services Corporation

Common Stock

The selling stockholder named in this prospectus supplement is offering 3,908,000 shares of our common stock. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder in this offering.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "LINC." The last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on December 8, 2010 was \$16.77 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See "Risk Factors" on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discount	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling stockholder	\$	\$

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriter expects to deliver the shares to investors on or about December , 2010.

Barclays Capital

The date of this prospectus supplement is December , 2010.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement and the Accompanying Prospectus</u>	<u>ii</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>iii</u>
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	<u>S-1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>S-4</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>S-7</u>
<u>Price Range of our Common Stock</u>	<u>S-8</u>
<u>Selling Stockholder</u>	<u>S-9</u>
<u>Material U.S. Federal Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders</u>	<u>S-10</u>
<u>Underwriting</u>	<u>S-13</u>
<u>Transfer Agent and Registrar</u>	<u>S-17</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>S-17</u>
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	<u>S-17</u>
Prospectus	
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	<u>ii</u>
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>iii</u>
<u>Lincoln Educational Services Corporation</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Use Of Proceeds</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Selling Stockholders</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Description Of Capital Stock</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Plan Of Distribution</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information And Incorporation Of Certain Information By Reference</u>	<u>10</u>

Neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriter have authorized anyone to provide you with any information or to make any representation not contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or included in any free writing prospectus that we may file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, in connection with this offering. We do not, and the selling shareholders and the underwriters do not, take any responsibility for, and can provide no assurances as to, the reliability of any information that others may provide you. Neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriter are making an offer to sell, or seeking an offer to buy, these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or included in any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date after the dates on the front of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any free writing prospectus, as applicable, or for information incorporated by reference, as of the dates of that information. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering of our common stock by the selling stockholder and also adds to and updates the information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, dated September 12, 2008, which gives more information about us and more general information about the selling stockholders named therein. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or the information contained in any document incorporated by reference herein or therein, the information contained in the most recently dated document shall control. See "Where You Can Find Additional Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" in this prospectus supplement.

The information contained in or incorporated by reference in this document is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus supplement, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or of any sale of common stock.

As used in this prospectus supplement, "Lincoln," the "Company," "we," "our," and "us" mean Lincoln Educational Services Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries. The term "selling stockholder" refers to the selling stockholder named in this prospectus supplement under the caption "Selling Stockholder."

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein contain, or will contain, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which include information relating to future events, future financial performance, strategies, expectations, competitive environment, regulation and availability of resources. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding: proposed new programs; expectations that regulatory developments or other matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity; statements concerning projections, predictions, expectations, estimates or forecasts as to our business, financial and operating results and future economic performance; and statements of management's goals and objectives and other similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Words such as "may," "should," "could," "would," "predicts," "potential," "continue," "expects," "anticipates," "future," "intends," "plans," "believes," "estimates," and similar expressions, as well as statements in future tense, identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements should not be read as a guarantee of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indications of the times at, or by, which such performance or results will be achieved. Forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time those statements are made and/or management's good faith belief as of that time with respect to future events, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

- our failure to comply with the extensive regulatory framework applicable to our industry or our failure to obtain timely regulatory approvals in connection with a change of control of our company or acquisitions;
- our success in updating and expanding the content of existing programs and developing new programs in a cost-effective manner or on a timely basis;
- risks associated with the opening of new campuses;
- risks associated with integration of acquired schools;
- industry competition;
- our ability to continue to execute our growth strategies;
- conditions and trends in our industry;
- general economic conditions; and
- other factors discussed under the headings "Risk Factors," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Business" in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statements are made. Except as required under the federal securities laws and rules and regulations of the SEC, we undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information. We caution you not to unduly rely on the forward-looking statements when evaluating the information presented herein, in the accompanying prospectus or in the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, including the risks of investing in our common stock discussed under "Risk Factors," the financial statements and notes and other information included elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, industry data are derived from publicly available sources, which we have not independently verified.

Lincoln Educational Services Corporation

Overview

We are a leading provider of diversified career-oriented post-secondary education as measured by total enrollment. We offer recent high school graduates and working adults degree and diploma programs in five areas of study: health sciences, automotive technology, skilled trades, hospitality services and business and information technology.

As of September 30, 2010, we had 33,157 students enrolled at 43 campuses in 17 states, including through our on-line programs. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, our average enrollment was 31,263, a 17.4% increase from the prior year period. However, student starts during the third quarter of 2010 were down 8.8% from the prior year quarter, in part due to our actions to raise outcomes. Of our average enrollment, health sciences accounted for 39%, automotive technology accounted for 30%, skilled trades accounted for 12%, hospitality services accounted for 9% and business and information technology accounted for 10%. As of September 30, 2010, 77% of our students were enrolled in diploma programs and 23% were enrolled in degree granting programs, primarily at the associate's degree level.

We generated \$552.5 million of revenues and \$88.3 million of operating income for the year ended December 31, 2009, which represents an increase of 46.6% and 148.3%, respectively, over 2008. We generated \$472.5 million of revenues and \$80.7 million of operating income for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, which represents an increase of 19.6% and 67.1%, respectively, over the comparable period in 2009.

All of our schools operate under the Lincoln Technical Institute, Lincoln College of Technology and Lincoln College of New England brand names, except for Nashville Auto-Diesel College, or NADC, Southwestern College and Euphoria Institute of Beauty Arts and Sciences, which continue to operate under their previous names. Most of our campuses serve major metropolitan markets and each typically offers courses in multiple areas of study. Eight of our campuses are destination schools, which attract students from across the United States and, in some cases, from abroad. Our other campuses primarily attract students from their local communities and surrounding areas. All of our schools are nationally or regionally accredited and are eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs by the U.S. Department of Education, or DOE, and applicable state education agencies and accrediting commissions which allow students to apply for and access federal student loans as well as other forms of financial aid.

Recent Developments

On December 9, 2010, we filed a Current Report on Form 8-K announcing the resignation of David F. Carney as Executive Chairman and Chairman of the Board of Directors effective as of December 31, 2010 and the appointment of Alexis P. Michas as Non-Executive Chairman of our Board effective as of January 1, 2011.

Table of Contents

Principal Stockholder

Stonington Partners, Inc. II, our principal stockholder prior to the completion of this offering, manages \$1.0 billion in private equity funds. Alexis P. Michas, a Managing Partner of Stonington, and James J. Burke, Jr., a Partner of Stonington, are members of our board of directors.

As of December 8, 2010, Stonington Partners, Inc. II beneficially owns, through Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C., its controlled subsidiary, 17.6% of our outstanding shares of common stock. Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C. is the selling stockholder in this offering. After giving effect to this offering, Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C. will not beneficially own any shares of our common stock.

Our principal executive offices are located at 200 Executive Drive, Suite 340, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, and our telephone number at that address is (973) 736-9340. Our website is www.lincolnedu.com. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock offered by the selling stockholder	3,908,000 shares
Common stock outstanding before and after the offering	22,185,181 shares
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder, but will pay all expenses of this offering, other than underwriting fees, discounts and commissions, which will be borne by the selling stockholder.
Risk factors	See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and in "Item 1.A Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010, and other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.
NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	LINC

The number of shares of common stock outstanding after this offering is based on 22,185,181 shares outstanding as of December 8, 2010 and assumes no exercise of outstanding stock options after that date. Unless we indicate otherwise, all information in this prospectus supplement excludes:

843,433 shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options granted to our employees and directors, of which 692,113 were exercisable at a weighted average exercise price of \$13.17 as of December 8, 2010; and

shares available for future option grants.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common stock is subject to significant risks. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. The risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not presently know about or that we currently believe are not material may also adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Risks Related to Our Business and Industry

For a discussion of the risks related to our business and industry, see "Risk Factors" included in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Risks Related to the Offering

An acquisition or sale of shares constituting a change of control under the DOE standards or the standards of certain institutional accrediting agencies would require each of our schools to apply for recertification for continued ability to participate in Title IV Programs and reaffirm certain accreditations. The failure to obtain the required recertifications and reaffirmations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

The DOE, most state education agencies and our accrediting commissions each have standards pertaining to a change in control of schools that are not uniform and are subject to interpretation by these respective agencies. A change in control under the definition of one of these agencies requires the affected school to reaffirm the applicable DOE approval, state authorization or accreditation. Each school that undergoes a change in control under the standards of the DOE must apply for recertification for continued ability to participate in Title IV Programs. Some agencies would require approval prior to a sale or disposition that would result in a change in control in order to maintain authorization or accreditation. The requirements to obtain such reaffirmation from the states and our accrediting commissions vary widely.

DOE regulations describe some transactions that constitute a change in control, including the transfer of a controlling interest in the voting stock of an institution or the institution's parent corporation. For a publicly traded corporation, DOE regulations provide that a change in ownership resulting in a change of control occurs in one of two ways: (a) if a person acquires ownership and control of the corporation so that the corporation is required to file a Current Report on Form 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosing the change in control or (b) if the corporation has a stockholder that owns at least 25% of the total outstanding voting stock of the corporation and is the largest stockholder of the corporation, and that stockholder ceases to own at least 25% of such stock or ceases to be the largest stockholder.

For example, the sale by the selling stockholder of the shares of common stock on April 6, 2010 caused them to own less than 25% of our total outstanding voting stock. As a result, the sale on April 6, 2010 constituted a change in ownership resulting in a change of control of each of our institutions under the DOE regulations. We submitted for each of our institutions an application for approval to participate in the Title IV programs. The DOE has approved the application for each institution and issued to each institution a new provisional program participation agreement with an expiration date of September 30, 2013. As a result, each of our institutions is provisionally certified by the DOE as a result of the change in ownership. Our Denver institution is provisionally certified as a

Table of Contents

result of the change in ownership and for having a default rate under the Federal Perkins Loan Program in excess of 30 percent.

We have received written confirmation from all state education agencies that license our institutions to operate in the states in which those institutions are physically located that the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder on April 6, 2010 would not constitute a change in control requiring agency approval provided that no other stockholder will own more than 25% of our outstanding voting stock following the sale and that the sale will not result in a change in our board of directors. We also received written confirmation from the following three of our four institutional accrediting agencies that the sale of shares did not constitute a change in control requiring agency approval: ACICS, NEASC, and ABHES.

The sale constituted a change in ownership under the standards of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, or ACCSC, which is the fourth of our institutional accrediting agencies. We applied for and received from ACCSC the required Part I and Part II approvals of the transfer of accreditation that resulted from the change of ownership and control for each of our ACCSC-accredited schools.

Future acquisitions or sales of our stock may result in a change in control under the standards of the DOE, state education agencies and our accrediting commissions. We do not expect that the current offering would result in a change of control under any of these standards based on past correspondence from those agencies in connection with our prior offering and based on the number of shares involved in this offering. However, we cannot predict or control the number of shares a person or group may acquire as a result of this offering or otherwise. If a person or group were to acquire ownership or control of our company or our total outstanding voting stock in an amount that meets or exceeds DOE, state education agency or accrediting commission thresholds, this offering could result in a change of control under the standards of the applicable agencies. We cannot assure you that the DOE and each of the aforementioned state and accrediting agencies would approve any application they would or may require in connection with this offering or future acquisitions or sales of our stock. If such approvals are not received, it may have a material impact on the operation of our schools and our results of operations. For more information, see "Business Regulatory Environment Change of Control" and "Risk Factors Risks Related to Our Industry" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009.

The price of our common stock may be volatile and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Volatility in the market price of our common stock may prevent you from being able to sell your shares at or above the price you paid for your shares. The market price of our common stock has fluctuated significantly in the past and could fluctuate significantly in the future for various reasons, which include:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly or annual earnings or those of other companies in our industry;

changes in market valuations or operating performance of our competitors or companies similar to ours;

additions and departures of key personnel;

the public's reaction to our and our competitors' press releases, other public announcements and filings with the SEC;

damage to our reputation or other adverse effects as a result of negative publicity in the media, in industry or governmental reports, or otherwise, affecting us or other companies in the for-profit post-secondary education sector;

Table of Contents

variance in our financial performance from the expectations of market analysts, including changes in earnings estimates or recommendations by research analysts who track our common stock or the stocks of other companies in our industry;

new laws or regulations or new interpretations of laws or regulations applicable to our business;

changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance, interpretations or principles;

seasonality and changes in general conditions in the United States and global economies or financial and credit markets, including those resulting from war, incidents of terrorism or responses to such events; and

sales of common stock by our directors, executive officers or principal stockholders.

In addition, in recent years, the stock market has experienced substantial price and volume fluctuations. In the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, the volatility in capital markets reached unprecedented levels. This volatility has had a significant impact on the market price of securities issued by many companies including us and the companies in our industry. The price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that have little or nothing to do with our company, and these fluctuations could materially reduce our stock price.

In the past, following periods of market volatility in the price of a company's securities, security holders have often instituted class action litigation. If the market value of our common stock experiences adverse fluctuations and we become involved in this type of litigation, regardless of the outcome, we could incur substantial legal costs and our management's attention could be diverted from the operation of our business, causing our business to suffer.

Future sales, or the possibility of future sales, of a substantial amount of our common stock may depress the price of the shares of our common stock.

Future sales, or the availability for sale in the public market, of substantial amounts of our common stock may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. Such sales could also create public perception of difficulties or problems with our business. These sales might also make it more difficult for us to sell securities in the future at a time and price that we deem necessary or appropriate.

We have 22,185,181 shares of common stock outstanding, assuming no exercise of outstanding stock options, of which all of the 3,908,000 shares to be sold in this offering may be resold in the public market immediately after this offering, except for any of the shares purchased by our affiliates.

None of our officers or directors have entered into any lock-up agreements in connection with this offering. As a result there will be no restrictions on the sale of shares by our officers and directors into the public market as a result of this offering, and therefore our stock price could drop significantly if the holders of these shares sell them or are perceived by the market as intending to sell them. These sales might also make it more difficult for us to sell securities in the future at a time and at a price that we deem appropriate.

Anti-takeover provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our amended and restated bylaws and New Jersey law could discourage a change of control that our stockholders may favor, which could negatively affect our stock price.

Provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws and applicable provisions of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act may make it more difficult and expensive for a third party to acquire control of us even if a change of control would be beneficial to the interests of our stockholders. These provisions could discourage potential takeover attempts and could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. For example, applicable

Table of Contents

provisions of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act may discourage, delay or prevent a change in control by prohibiting us from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of five years after the person becomes an interested stockholder. Furthermore, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws:

authorize the issuance of blank check preferred stock that could be issued by our board of directors to thwart a takeover attempt;

prohibit cumulative voting in the election of directors, which would otherwise allow holders of less than a majority of stock to elect some directors;

require super-majority voting to effect amendments to certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation;

limit who may call special meetings of both the board of directors and stockholders;

prohibit stockholder action by non-unanimous written consent and otherwise require all stockholder actions to be taken at a meeting of the stockholders;

establish advance notice requirements for nominating candidates for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholders' meetings; and

require that vacancies on the board of directors, including newly created directorships, be filled only by a majority vote of directors then in office.

We can issue shares of preferred stock without shareholder approval, which could adversely affect the rights of common stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation permits us to establish the rights, privileges, preferences and restrictions, including voting rights, of future series of our preferred stock and to issue such stock without approval from our stockholders. The rights of holders of our common stock may suffer as a result of the rights granted to holders of preferred stock that may be issued in the future. In addition, we could issue preferred stock to prevent a change in control of our company, depriving common stockholders of an opportunity to sell their stock at a price in excess of the prevailing market price.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of our common stock by the selling stockholder, but pursuant to a registration rights agreement will pay all expenses of this offering, other than underwriting fees, discounts and commissions, which will be borne by the selling stockholder.

S-7

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF OUR COMMON STOCK**

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "LINC." The following table shows the high and low closing sales prices of our common stock as quoted on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the periods indicated:

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2008		
First Quarter	\$ 14.55	\$ 11.62
Second Quarter	\$ 12.55	\$ 10.79
Third Quarter	\$ 15.64	\$ 11.23
Fourth Quarter	\$ 14.46	\$ 10.75

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2009		
First Quarter	\$ 18.32	\$ 10.88
Second Quarter	\$ 20.93	\$ 14.49
Third Quarter	\$ 23.50	\$ 18.44
Fourth Quarter	\$ 24.49	\$ 19.66

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010		
First Quarter	\$ 28.10	\$ 19.10
Second Quarter	\$ 27.94	\$ 20.59
Third Quarter	\$ 21.55	\$ 10.31
Fourth Quarter (through December 8, 2010)	\$ 16.77	\$ 12.07

As of December 8, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$16.77 per share. As of December 8, 2010, based on the information provided by Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, there were approximately 10 stockholders of record of our common stock.

Table of Contents**SELLING STOCKHOLDER**

The following table, which was prepared based on information filed publicly or supplied to us by the selling stockholder, sets forth the name of the selling stockholder, the number of common shares owned by the selling stockholder as of December 8, 2010 and the number of shares to be offered by the selling stockholder pursuant to this prospectus supplement. The table also provides information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common shares by the selling stockholder as adjusted to reflect the assumed sale of the shares offered under this prospectus supplement.

The number of shares disclosed in the table below as "beneficially owned" are those beneficially owned as determined under the rules of the SEC. Such information is not necessarily indicative of ownership for any other purpose. Under the rules of the SEC, a person is deemed to be a "beneficial owner" of a security if that person has or shares "voting power," which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or "investment power," which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security.

The percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 22,185,181 shares of voting common stock outstanding on December 8, 2010. Unless otherwise indicated and subject to community property laws where applicable, the selling stockholder named in the following table has, to our knowledge, sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned by it.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Beneficial Ownership Prior to Offering		Number of Shares Offered in this Offering	Beneficial Ownership After Offering	
	Number of Shares of Common Stock	Percentage		Number of Shares of Common Stock	Percentage
Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C.(1)	3,908,000	17.6%	3,908,000	0	0%

(1)

Based on the information reported in a statement on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 16, 2010 by Stonington Capital Appreciation 1994 Fund, L.P., Stonington Partners, L.P., Stonington Partners, Inc., Stonington Partners, Inc. II, collectively, the Stonington Entities, and Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C., or BSA, and information provided to us by the Stonington Entities and BSA. The Stonington Entities control and have a 100% economic interest in BSA. BSA owns 3,908,000 shares. Alexis P. Michas is the Managing Partner of Stonington Partners, Inc. II and James J. Burke, Jr. is a Partner of Stonington Partners, Inc. II. Both are members of our board of directors. We have not attempted to independently verify any of the foregoing information. Both BSA and Stonington Partners, Inc. II have their business address at 600 Madison Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10022.

Table of Contents

**MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS
FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS**

The following discussion is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common stock applicable to "Non-U.S. Holders." As used herein, a Non-U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of our common stock that is neither a U.S. person nor a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and that will hold shares of our common stock as capital assets (*i.e.*, generally, for investment). For U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. person includes:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other business entity taxable as a corporation) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is includible in gross income regardless of source; or

a trust that (A) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more U.S. persons, or (B) otherwise has validly elected to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares of our common stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Such partner or partnership should consult its independent tax advisor as to its tax consequences relating to the ownership and disposition of our common stock.

This summary does not consider specific facts and circumstances that may be relevant to a particular Non-U.S. Holder's tax position and does not consider U.S. state and local or non-U.S. tax consequences or U.S. federal tax consequences other than income and estate tax consequences. It also does not consider Non-U.S. Holders subject to special tax treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws (including partnerships or other pass-through entities, banks and insurance companies, dealers in securities, holders of our common stock held as part of a "straddle," "hedge," "conversion transaction" or other risk-reduction transaction, controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, companies that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax, foreign tax-exempt organizations, former U.S. citizens or residents and persons who hold or receive common stock as compensation). This summary is based on provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), applicable U.S. Treasury regulations, administrative pronouncements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), and judicial decisions, all as in effect on the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis, and different interpretations.

This summary is included herein as general information only. Accordingly, each prospective Non-U.S. Holder is urged to consult its tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. income, estate and other tax consequences of holding and disposing of our common stock, including under any applicable tax treaty.

U.S. Trade or Business Income

For purposes of this discussion, dividend income, and gain on the sale or other taxable disposition of our common stock, will be considered to be "U.S. trade or business income" if such dividend income or gain is (i) effectively connected with the conduct by a Non-U.S. Holder of a trade or business within the United States and (ii) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder that is eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty with the United States, attributable to a permanent establishment (or, for an individual, a fixed base) maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States. Generally, U.S. trade

Table of Contents

or business income is not subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (provided the Non-U.S. Holder complies with applicable certification and disclosure requirements); instead, U.S. trade or business income is subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at regular U.S. federal income tax rates in the same manner as income of a U.S. person. Any U.S. trade or business income received by a Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation also may be subject to a "branch profits tax" at a 30% rate, or at a lower rate prescribed by an applicable income tax treaty, under specific circumstances.

Dividends

Distributions of cash or property that we pay on our common stock will be taxable as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). A Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, or at a reduced rate prescribed by an applicable income tax treaty, on any dividends received in respect of our common stock. If the amount of a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such excess first will be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the Non-U.S. Holder's tax basis in our common stock, and thereafter will be treated as capital gain. In order to obtain a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax under an applicable income tax treaty, a Non-U.S. Holder will be required to provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or appropriate substitute or successor form) certifying its entitlement to benefits under the treaty. A Non-U.S. Holder of our common stock that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund or credit of any excess amounts withheld by filing a timely claim for a refund with the IRS. A Non-U.S. Holder should consult its own independent tax advisor regarding its possible entitlement to benefits under an income tax treaty.

The U.S. federal withholding tax does not apply to dividends that are U.S. trade or business income, as described above, of a Non-U.S. Holder who provides a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI (or appropriate substitute or successor form), certifying that the dividends are effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States.

Dispositions of Our Common Stock

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax in respect of any gain realized on a sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock unless:

- (1) the gain is U.S. trade or business income, as described above;
- (2) the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the disposition and meets certain other conditions; or
- (3) we are or have been a "U.S. real property holding corporation" (a "USRPHC") under section 897 of the Code at any time during the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of such disposition and the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period for our common stock.

In general, a corporation is a USRPHC if the fair market value of its "U.S. real property interests" equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market values of its worldwide (domestic and foreign) real property interests and its other assets used or held for use in a trade or business. For this purpose, real property interests include land, improvements, and associated personal property. We do not believe that we currently are a USRPHC, although no assurances can be made that the IRS will not take a contrary position or that our circumstances will not change in the future. If we are found to be a USRPHC, a Non-U.S. Holder nevertheless will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax in respect of any gain on a sale or other disposition of our common stock so long as our common stock is "regularly traded on an established securities market" as defined under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations and such Non-U.S. Holder owns, actually and constructively, 5% or less of

Table of Contents

our common stock during the shorter of the five-year period ending on the date of disposition and such Non-U.S. Holder's holding period for our common stock. Prospective investors should be aware that no assurance can be given that our common stock will be so regularly traded when a Non-U.S. Holder sells its shares of our common stock.

U.S. Federal Estate Taxes

Shares of our common stock owned or treated as owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident of the United States at the time of death will be included in the individual's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, and may be subject to U.S. federal estate tax, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Requirements

We must annually report to the IRS and to each Non-U.S. Holder any dividend income that is subject to U.S. federal withholding tax (and the amount of tax withheld), or that is exempt from such withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty. Copies of these information returns also may be made available under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement to the tax authorities of the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides. Under certain circumstances, the Code imposes a backup withholding obligation on certain reportable payments. Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder of our common stock generally will be exempt from backup withholding if the Non-U.S. Holder provides a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or appropriate substitute or successor form) or otherwise establishes an exemption.

The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of common stock to or through the U.S. office of any broker, U.S. or foreign, will be subject to information reporting and possible backup withholding unless the owner certifies as to its non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption, provided that the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that the holder is a U.S. person or that the conditions of any other exemption are not, in fact, satisfied. The payment of the proceeds from the disposition of common stock to or through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding unless the non-U.S. broker has certain types of relationships with the United States (a "U.S. related person"). In the case of the payment of the proceeds from the disposition of our common stock to or through a non-U.S. office of a broker that is either a U.S. person or a U.S. related person, the U.S. Treasury regulations require information reporting (but not backup withholding) on the payment unless the broker has documentary evidence in its files that the owner is a Non-U.S. Holder and the broker has no knowledge to the contrary. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own independent tax advisors on the application of information reporting and backup withholding to them in their particular circumstances (including upon their disposition of our common stock).

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be refunded or credited against the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, if the Non-U.S. Holder provides the required information to the IRS on a timely basis.

Recent Legislation Imposing Additional Disclosure Requirements on Foreign Entities

Non-U.S. Holders should be aware of recent legislation that, beginning on January 1, 2013, would impose a 30% withholding tax on certain payments (which could include dividends in respect of our common stock and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of shares of our common stock) made to a non-U.S. entity that fails to disclose the identity of its direct or indirect "substantial United States owners" or to certify that it has no such owners. Various exceptions are provided under the legislation and additional exceptions may be provided by subsequent guidance. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential application and impact of these new requirements based upon their particular circumstances.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

Barclays Capital Inc. is acting as the underwriter for this offering. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the purchase agreement among us, the selling stockholder and the underwriter, the selling stockholder has agreed to sell to the underwriter, and the underwriter has agreed to purchase from the selling stockholder all 3,908,000 shares of common stock offered hereby.

We and the selling stockholder have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriter is offering the shares, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by it, subject to approval of legal matters by its counsel, including the validity of the shares, and other conditions contained in the purchase agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriter of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriter reserves the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Commissions and Discounts

The underwriter has advised us and the selling stockholder that it proposes initially to offer the shares to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$ per share. After the offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed.

The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds before expenses to the selling stockholder.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions paid by the selling stockholder	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to the selling stockholder	\$	\$

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated at approximately \$0.4 million and are payable by us.

No Sales of Similar Securities

We have agreed, subject to limited exceptions, not to sell or transfer any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for or repayable with common stock, for 40 days after the date of the purchase agreement without first obtaining the written consent of the underwriter. Specifically, we have agreed not to directly or indirectly:

offer, pledge, sell or contract to sell any common stock,

sell any option or contract to purchase any common stock,

purchase any option or contract to sell any common stock,

grant any option, right or warrant to purchase any common stock,

otherwise dispose of or transfer any common stock, or

enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of any common stock whether any such swap or transaction is to be settled by delivery of shares of common stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise.

The underwriter may, in its sole discretion and at any time without notice, release all or any portion of the securities subject to this lock-up agreement. The underwriter has advised us that it has

Table of Contents

no present intent or arrangement to release any shares subject to a lock-up, and will consider the release of the lock-up on a case-by-case basis. Upon a request to release any shares subject to the lock-up, the underwriter would consider the particular circumstances surrounding the request, including, but not limited to, the length of time before the lock-up expires, the number of shares requested to be released, reasons for the request and the possible impact on the market or our common stock. As a result of this lock-up agreement none of these shares may be sold until 40 days after the date of the purchase agreement.

This lock-up provision applies to common stock and to securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for or repayable with common stock.

None of our officers or directors have entered into any lock-up agreements in connection with this offering. As a result, there will be no restrictions on the sale of shares by our officers and directors into the public market as a result of this offering, and therefore our stock price could drop significantly if the holders of these shares sell them or are perceived by the market as intending to sell them.

Price Stabilization and Short Positions

Until the distribution of the shares is completed, SEC rules may limit the underwriter and selling group members from bidding for and purchasing our common stock. However, the underwriter may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the common stock, such as bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain that price.

If the underwriter creates a short position in the common stock in connection with the offering, *i.e.*, if it sells more shares than are listed on the cover of this prospectus supplement, the underwriter may reduce that short position by purchasing shares in the open market. Purchases of the common stock to stabilize its price or to reduce a short position may cause the price of the common stock to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases.

Neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriter makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common stock. In addition, neither we, the selling stockholder nor the underwriter makes any representation that the underwriter will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Passive Market Making

In connection with this offering, the underwriter and selling group members may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act during a period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of distribution. A passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of that security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, that bid must then be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

Other Relationships

The underwriter and its affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services to us and the selling stockholder for which services they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees. Barclays Capital Inc. and its affiliates also hold shares of our common stock, which in aggregate comprise less than 1% of our total issued and outstanding shares as of December 8, 2010. Additionally, Barclays Capital Inc. acted as a joint book-running manager for the offerings of our common stock by us and certain selling stockholders in February and September 2009 as well as sole-book-running manager in connection with

Table of Contents

the block trades by the selling stockholder in December 2009 and April 2010 for which they received customary fees.

Electronic Distribution

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the Internet sites or through other online services maintained by the underwriter and/or selling group members participating in this offering, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and, depending upon the underwriter or particular selling group member, prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online. The underwriter may agree with us to allocate a specific number of shares for sale to online brokerage account holders. Any such allocation for online distributions will be made by the underwriter on the same basis as other allocations.

Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on any underwriter's or selling group member's web site and any information contained in any other web site maintained by an underwriter or selling group member is not part of the prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or any underwriter or selling group member in its capacity as underwriter or selling group member and should not be relied upon by investors.

Selling Restrictions

No action has been taken in any jurisdiction (except in the United States) that would permit a public offering of the shares of common stock, or the possession, circulation or distribution of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any other material relating to us or the shares where action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, the shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and neither this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the shares may be distributed or published, in or from any country or jurisdiction except in compliance with any applicable rules and regulations of any such country or jurisdiction. The underwriter may arrange to sell the shares offered hereby in certain jurisdictions outside the United States, either directly or through affiliates, where they are permitted to do so.

European Economic Area/United Kingdom

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area ("EEA") which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, as defined below (each, a "Relevant Member State"), an offer to the public of any shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any of the shares may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) by the underwriter to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than "qualified investors," as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive;

Table of Contents

provided that no such offer of the shares shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or any underwriter of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

Any person making or intending to make any offer within the EEA of the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated in this prospectus supplement should only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or the underwriter to produce a prospectus for such offer. Neither we have nor the underwriter has authorized, or will authorize, the making of any offer of the shares through any financial intermediary, other than offers made by the underwriter which constitute the final offering of the shares contemplated in this prospectus supplement.

For the purposes of this provision and the buyer's representation below, the expression "an offer to the public" in relation to the shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase the shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who receives any communication in respect of, or who acquires any of the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement under, the offers contemplated in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to have represented, warranted and agreed to and with each underwriter and us that:

- (a) it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive; and
- (b) in the case of any shares acquired by it as a financial intermediary, as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, (i) the shares acquired by it in the offering have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than "qualified investors", as defined in the Prospectus Directive, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the representatives has been given to the offer or resale; or (ii) where the shares have been acquired by it on behalf of persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors, the offer of those shares to it is not treated under the Prospectus Directive as having been made to such persons.

Switzerland

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS IN SWITZERLAND

This document as well as any other material relating to the shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement (the "Shares") do not constitute an issue prospectus pursuant to Article 652a of the Swiss Code of Obligations. The Shares will not be listed on the SWX Swiss Exchange and, therefore, the documents relating to the Shares, including, but not limited to, this document, do not claim to comply with the disclosure standards of the listing rules of SWX Swiss Exchange and corresponding prospectus schemes annexed to the listing rules of the SWX Swiss Exchange.

The Shares are being offered in Switzerland by way of a private placement, i.e. to a small number of selected investors only, without any public offer and only to investors who do not purchase the Shares with the intention to distribute them to the public. The investors will be individually approached by the Issuer from time to time.

This document as well as any other material relating to the Shares is personal and confidential and do not constitute an offer to any other person. This document may only be used by those investors to whom it has been handed out in connection with the offering described herein and may neither directly

Table of Contents

nor indirectly be distributed or made available to other persons without express consent of the Issuer. It may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in (or from) Switzerland.

Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (the "DFSA"). It is intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in those rules. It must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The DFSA has not approved this document nor taken steps to verify the information set out in it, and has no responsibility for it. The shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, you should consult an authorized financial adviser.

Hong Kong

The common stock may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (a) in circumstances that do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), (b) to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder or (c) in other circumstances that do not result in the document being a "prospectus" within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the common stock may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to common stock that are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Japan

The common stock have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan, as amended (the "FIEL"), and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any common stock, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan or Japanese corporation, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FIEL and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Singapore

Neither this prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus has been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the common stock may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the common stock be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (a) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore ("SFA"), (b) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (c) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions

Table of Contents

of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. Where the common stock are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person that is (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the common stock under Section 275 except (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA, (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer or (3) by operation of law.

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

LEGAL MATTERS

Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York, New York, will pass upon certain legal matters for us. The validity of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for us by McCarter & English, LLP, Newark, New Jersey. The underwriter is represented by Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles, California.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important business and financial information to you that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus supplement by referring you to publicly filed documents that contain the omitted information.

You can read and copy any materials on file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information about the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a website that contains information we file electronically with the SEC, which you can access over the internet at www.sec.gov.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement is a part.

The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement, and the information we later file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede earlier information. We incorporate by reference the following documents filed with the SEC by us and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of the offering of our common stock covered

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

by this prospectus supplement (except for information furnished to the SEC that is not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of the Exchange Act):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2010, June 30, 2010 and September 30, 2010;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 3, 2010 (but only with respect to the disclosure under Item 5.02 included in such report), March 30, 2010, April 6, 2010, April 23, 2010, May 5, 2010 (but only with respect to the disclosure under Item 5.07 included in such report), June 10, 2010, August 10, 2010 and December 9, 2010 (two filings);

our Proxy Statement filed March 24, 2010; and

the description of our common stock included in Item 1 of our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on June 22, 2005.

You may also request a copy of the information we incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement at no cost by writing or telephoning us at Lincoln Educational Services Corporation, 200 Executive Drive, Suite 340, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, Attention: Investor Relations, (973) 736-9340.

Information is also available on our website at www.lincolnedu.com. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

22,024,003 Shares

Lincoln Educational Services Corporation

Common Stock

We may offer and sell, from time to time, up to 1,500,000 shares of our common stock, and the selling stockholders named under the caption "Selling Stockholders" in this prospectus may offer and sell, from time to time, up to 20,524,003 shares of our common stock. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of common stock by the selling stockholders.

When we or the selling stockholders offer shares of our common stock, we will provide the specific terms of such offerings in supplements to this prospectus. The shares of our common stock may be offered for sale in a number of different ways and at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at privately negotiated prices. More information about how the shares of our common stock may be sold is included in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" contained in this prospectus.

This prospectus may not be used to sell shares of our common stock unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol "LINC." On August 6, 2008, the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market was \$14.82 per share.

The aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was \$67,713,499, which is calculated based on 4,569,062 shares of common stock held by non-affiliates as of August 6, 2008 and on a price per share of our common stock of \$14.82, representing the closing per share price of our common stock on August 6, 2008. We have not offered any common stock pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the 12 calendar months prior to and including August 7, 2008.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully read the risks that are described in the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 2 of this prospectus, in the "Risk Factors" section of our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in any applicable prospectus supplement before investing in our common stock.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 12, 2008.

You should rely only on the information included in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement or included in any free writing prospectus that we may file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, in connection with this offering. Neither we nor the selling stockholders have authorized anyone to provide you with any other information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information you should not rely on it. Neither we nor the selling stockholders are making an offer to sell securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is accurate only as of their respective dates or on other dates specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	<u>ii</u>
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	<u>iii</u>
<u>LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>EXPERTS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	<u>10</u>

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC using the SEC's "shelf registration" rules. Under the shelf registration process, using this prospectus, together with a prospectus supplement, we may offer and sell, from time to time, up to an aggregate of 1,500,000 shares of our common stock, in one or more offerings and at prices and on terms that we determine at the time of the offering. In addition, the selling stockholders named in this prospectus under the caption "Selling Stockholders" may offer and sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, up to an aggregate of 20,524,003 shares of our common stock.

This prospectus provides you with a description of our common stock as well as other information you should know before investing in our common stock. Each time we or the selling stockholders offer and sell our common stock, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of that specific offering of our common stock and the specific manner in which it may be offered. The prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change any of the information contained in this prospectus. To the extent that any statement we make in a prospectus supplement is inconsistent with statements made in this prospectus, the statements made in this prospectus will be deemed modified or superseded by those made in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under "Where You Can Find Additional Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" before making an investment decision. This prospectus may not be used to sell our common stock unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed or will be filed or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under "Where You Can Find Additional Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference." We urge you to read that registration statement in its entirety, including all amendments, exhibits, schedules and supplements to that registration statement.

As used in this prospectus, "Lincoln," "the Company," "we," "our," or "us" mean Lincoln Educational Services Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries. The term "selling stockholders" refers, collectively, to the selling stockholders named under the caption "Selling Stockholders" in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain, or will contain, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, which include information relating to future events, future financial performance, strategies, expectations, competitive environment, regulation and availability of resources. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding: proposed new programs; expectations that regulatory developments or other matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity; statements concerning projections, predictions, expectations, estimates or forecasts as to our business, financial and operating results and future economic performance; and statements of management's goals and objectives and other similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Words such as "may," "should," "could," "would," "predicts," "potential," "continue," "expects," "anticipates," "future," "intends," "plans," "believes," "estimates," and similar expressions, as well as statements in future tense, identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements should not be read as a guarantee of future performance or results, and will not necessarily be accurate indications of the times at, or by, which such performance or results will be achieved. Forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time those statements are made and/or management's good faith belief as of that time with respect to future events, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in or suggested by the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to:

actual or anticipated fluctuations in our results of operations;

our failure to comply with the extensive regulatory framework applicable to our industry or our failure to obtain timely regulatory approvals in connection with a change of control of our company;

our success in updating and expanding the content of existing programs and developing new programs in a cost-effective manner or on a timely basis;

risks associated with the opening of new campuses;

risks associated with integration of acquired schools;

industry competition;

our ability to continue to execute our growth strategies;

conditions and trends in our industry;

general and economic conditions; and

other factors discussed under the headings "Risk Factors," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Business" in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in the documents incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statements are made. Except as required under the federal securities laws and rules and regulations of the SEC, we undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information. We caution you not to unduly rely on the forward-looking

statements when evaluating the information presented herein.

Table of Contents

LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION

We are a leading and diversified for-profit provider of career-oriented post-secondary education. We offer recent high school graduates and working adults degree and diploma programs in five areas of study: automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business and information technology and hospitality services. We have provided the workforce with skilled technicians since our inception in 1946. As of June 30, 2008, we operated 35 campuses in 17 states under five brands: Lincoln Technical Institute, Lincoln College of Technology, Nashville Auto-Diesel College, Southwestern College and Euphoria Institute of Beauty Arts and Sciences. We had a combined average enrollment of approximately 18,540 students for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

Our principal executive offices are located at 200 Executive Drive, Suite 340, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, and our telephone number at that address is (973) 736-9340. Our website is www.lincolneducationalservices.com. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Our business is subject to significant risks. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, including the risks and uncertainties described under the caption "Risk Factors" included in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Additional risk factors that you should carefully consider may be included in a prospectus supplement relating to an offering of our common stock by us or the selling stockholders.

The risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not presently know about or that we currently believe are not material may also adversely affect our business. If any of the risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or the documents incorporated by reference herein actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected in a material way. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline, perhaps significantly, and you may lose part or all of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may otherwise be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the common stock by us under this prospectus for general corporate or working capital purposes, which may include, among other things, capital expenditures, repaying indebtedness, funding acquisitions and investments. We routinely consider acquiring companies in our industry. At any given time, we may be in discussions to acquire one or more companies. Depending upon the timing of any future acquisition, we may use the net proceeds from any sale of common stock offered by us under this prospectus toward the purchase price of such acquisitions. Additional information on the use of net proceeds from any sale of common stock offered by us under this prospectus will be set forth in the prospectus supplement or other offering material relating to such offering.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling stockholders. We will pay all expenses incurred with respect to the registration and sale of the shares of common stock owned by the selling stockholders, other than underwriting fees, discounts and commissions, which will be borne by the selling stockholders.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid dividends on our common stock and we do not anticipate declaring or paying dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. Instead, we currently anticipate that we will retain all of our future earnings, if any, to fund the operation and expansion of our business and to use as working capital and for other general corporate purposes. Our board of directors will determine whether to pay cash dividends in the future based on conditions then existing and the financial responsibility standards prescribed by the U.S. Department of Education, as well as any economic and other conditions that our board of directors may deem relevant. In addition, our ability to declare and pay dividends is subject to certain restrictions under our existing credit agreement.

Table of Contents**SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

Each of the selling stockholders may resell, from time to time, all, some or none of the shares of our common stock covered by this prospectus, as provided in this prospectus under the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" and in any applicable prospectus supplement. However, we do not know when or in what amount the selling stockholders may offer their shares for sale under this prospectus, if any. We will pay all expenses incurred with respect to the registration and sale of the shares of common stock owned by the selling stockholders, other than underwriting fees, discounts and commissions, which will be borne by the selling stockholders.

The table below, which was prepared based on information filed publicly or supplied to us by the selling stockholders, sets forth the information regarding the beneficial ownership of outstanding shares of our common stock by the selling stockholders and the shares that they may sell or otherwise dispose of from time to time under this prospectus. Information concerning any of the selling stockholders may change from time to time, and any changed information will be presented in a prospectus supplement as necessary. Please carefully read the footnotes located below the table in conjunction with the information presented in the table.

The number of shares disclosed in the table below as "beneficially owned" are those beneficially owned as determined under the rules of the SEC. Such information is not necessarily indicative of ownership for any other purpose. Under the rules of the SEC, a person is deemed to be a "beneficial owner" of a security if that person has or shares "voting power," which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or "investment power," which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, shares of common stock subject to options held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of August 5, 2008 are deemed outstanding. Such shares, however, are not deemed outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage of ownership of any other person.

The percentages of beneficial ownership is based on 25,427,733 shares of common stock outstanding on August 5, 2008. Unless otherwise indicated and subject to community property laws where applicable, the selling stockholders named in the following table have, to our knowledge, sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares beneficially owned by them.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Beneficial Ownership Prior to Offering		Maximum Number of Shares Offered in this Offering(1)	Beneficial Ownership After Offering	
	Number of Shares of Common Stock	Percentage		Number of Shares of Common Stock(2)	Percentage(2)
Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C.(3)	20,334,003	80.0%	18,165,500(9)		
Hart Capital LLC(4)	2,159,139	8.5%	2,159,139(10)		
Steven Hart Estate Reduction Trust FBO Nicholas DeQuinzio Hart, Marilyn D. Hart trustee(5)	2,341	*	2,341		
Steven Hart Estate Reduction Trust FBO Jordan Campbell Hart, Marilyn D. Hart trustee(5)	2,341	*	2,341		
Steven Hart Estate Reduction Trust FBO Christopher Weber Hart, Marilyn D. Hart trustee(5)	2,341	*	2,341		
Steven Hart Estate Reduction Trust FBO Sarah Elizabeth Hart, Marilyn D. Hart trustee(5)	2,341	*	2,341		
Management Stockholders(6):					
David F. Carney(7)	564,943	2.2%	150,000	414,943	1.5%
Scott M. Shaw(8)	416,664	1.6%	40,000	376,664	1.4%

*

Denotes less than 1%.

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORP - Form 424B3

Table of Contents

- (1) Represents the total number of shares of our common stock that the respective selling stockholders may offer under this prospectus.
- (2) We do not know when or in what amounts the selling stockholders may offer for sale the shares covered by this prospectus, if at all. The selling stockholders may sell the shares covered by this prospectus from time to time and may also decide not to sell all, or any, of the shares covered by this prospectus. Because the selling stockholders may offer all, some or none of the shares covered by this prospectus, we cannot estimate the number of shares of our common stock that the selling stockholders will actually own after any sale of shares pursuant to this prospectus. For purposes of this table, however, we have assumed that the selling stockholders will have sold all of their respective shares covered by this prospectus and that no additional shares of our common stock are acquired by the selling stockholders. For purposes of this table we have also assumed that we have sold all 1,500,000 shares covered by this prospectus.
- (3) Based solely on the information reported in a statement on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 14, 2008 by Stonington Capital Appreciation 1994 Fund, L.P., Stonington Partners, L.P., Stonington Partners, Inc., Stonington Partners, Inc. II (collectively, the "Stonington Entities") and Back to School Acquisition, L.L.C. ("BSA"), and information provided to us by Stonington Entities, BSA and Five Mile River Capital Partners LLC ("FMRCP"), Hart Capital LLC and Steven W. Hart. The Stonington Entities control and have a 100% economic interest in BSA. BSA (i) owns 18,165,500 shares; (ii) has the power to direct the voting and, in certain circumstances the disposition, of 2,104,600 shares through a stockholders' agreement with FMRCP (of which Hart Capital LLC is the managing member), (iii) has the power to direct the voting and, in certain circumstances the disposition, of 13,005 shares through stockholders' agreements with Steven W. Hart and various Hart family trusts, and (iv) will have the power to direct the voting, and in certain circumstances the disposition, of 50,898 shares upon the exercise of currently exercisable options held by Steven W. Hart through a stockholders' agreement with Steven W. Hart. Alexis P. Michas is the Managing Partner of Stonington Partners, Inc. II and James J. Burke, Jr. is a Partner of Stonington Partners, Inc. II. Both are members of our board of directors. We have not attempted to independently verify any of the foregoing information. Both BSA and Stonington Partners, Inc. II have their business address at 540 Madison Avenue, 25th Floor, New York, New York 10022.
- (4) Based solely on the information reported in a statement on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 12, 2008 by Steven W. Hart, FMRCP and Hart Capital LLC, and information provided to us by Steven W. Hart, FMRCP and Hart Capital LLC. The total number of shares consists of (i) 2,104,600 shares held by FMRCP (of which Hart Capital LLC is the managing member), (ii) 3,641 shares held by Steven W. Hart, and (iii) 50,898 shares issuable upon the exercise of currently exercisable options held by Steven W. Hart. Steven W. Hart, a former member of our board of directors, is a Managing Director of Hart Capital LLC. Marilyn D. Hart is Steven W. Hart's wife. We have not attempted to independently verify any of the foregoing information. Steven W. Hart, FMRCP and Hart Capital LLC have their business address at 137 Rowayton Avenue, Rowayton, Connecticut 06853.
- (5) Based solely on information provided to us by Steven W. Hart, FMRCP and Hart Capital LLC.
- (6) Unless otherwise noted, the business address for each of the management stockholders is 200 Executive Drive, Suite 340, West Orange, New Jersey 07052.
- (7) Includes 227,288 shares of common stock currently held of record, of which 12,000 shares are outstanding shares of restricted stock granted on February 29, 2008 and held in escrow, which will vest ratably over the five years subsequent to the date of grant. Also includes options to purchase 337,655 shares of common stock.
- (8) Includes 135,386 shares of common stock currently held of record, of which 60,000 shares are outstanding shares of restricted stock granted on October 30, 2007 (50,000 shares) and February 29, 2008 (10,000 shares) and held in escrow, which will vest ratably over the five years subsequent to the date of grant. Also includes options to purchase 281,278 shares of common stock.
- (9) Represents shares owned by BSA.
- (10) Represents shares described in note (4).

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following is a description of the material terms of our capital stock included in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and is only a summary. You should refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, for more information.

We are currently authorized to issue 100,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock.

Common Stock

As of August 5, 2008 there were 25,427,733 shares of common stock outstanding, which were held of record by 19 stockholders.

Voting rights. The holders of our common stock will be entitled to one vote per share for each share held of record on any matter to be voted upon by stockholders. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting in connection with the election of directors and, accordingly, holders of more than 50% of the shares voting will be able to elect all of the directors standing for election.

Dividend rights. All shares of our common stock are entitled to share equally in any dividends our board of directors may declare from legally available sources. Our existing credit agreement currently imposes restrictions on our ability to declare dividends with respect to our common stock.

Liquidation rights. Upon liquidation or dissolution of our company, whether voluntary or involuntary, all shares of our common stock will be entitled to share equally in the assets available for distribution to stockholders after payment of all of our prior obligations, including obligations on our preferred stock.

Other matters. The holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights and our common stock is not subject to further calls or assessments by us. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to the rights of holders of shares of any series or preferred stock that may be issued in the future. All outstanding shares of our common stock, including the outstanding common stock offered in this offering, are fully paid and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for the authorization of 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. We currently do not have any preferred stock issued or outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock will be outstanding immediately following the filing of this registration statement. The shares of preferred stock may be issued from time to time at the discretion of the board of directors without stockholder approval. The board of directors will be authorized to issue these shares in different classes and series and, with respect to each class or series, to determine the dividend rate, the redemption provisions, conversion provisions, liquidation preference and other rights and privileges not in conflict with our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. The issuance of preferred stock could adversely affect the voting power of holders of common stock and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation. In addition, the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of us. The issuance of our preferred stock provides needed flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes; however, the issuance could also make it more difficult for a third party to acquire a majority of our outstanding voting stock or discourage an attempt

Table of Contents

to gain control of us. In addition, the board of directors, without stockholder approval, will be able to issue shares of preferred stock with voting and conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of the holders of common stock. The rules of the Nasdaq Global Market, which will apply so long as our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market, require stockholder approval of certain issuances equal to or exceeding 20% of the then outstanding voting power of the then outstanding number of shares of common stock. These additional shares may be used for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings, to raise additional capital or to facilitate acquisitions.

Directors' Exculpation and Indemnification

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that none of our directors shall be liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except to the extent otherwise required by the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, or the NJBCA. The effect of this provision is to eliminate our rights, and our stockholders' rights, to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of a fiduciary duty of care as a director, except to the extent otherwise required by the NJBCA. This provision does not limit or eliminate our right, or the right of any stockholder, to seek non-monetary relief, such as an injunction or rescission in the event of a breach of a director's duty of care. In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that, if the NJBCA is amended to authorize the further elimination or limitation of the liability of a director, then the liability of the directors shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the NJBCA, as so amended. These provisions will not alter the liability of directors under federal or state securities laws.

Anti-Takeover Effects of the New Jersey Shareholders Protection Act

We are subject to the provisions of Section 14A-10A of the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, which is known as the "New Jersey Shareholders Protection Act." Under the New Jersey Shareholders Protection Act, we are prohibited from engaging in any "business combination" with any "interested shareholder" for a period of five years following the time at which that shareholder becomes an "interested shareholder" unless the business combination is approved by our board of directors before that shareholder became an "interested shareholder." After this five-year period has expired, any business combination with an "interested shareholder" must be approved by holders of 66²/₃% of the voting shares not held by the "interested shareholder" or meet certain prescribed value requirements. Covered business combinations include certain mergers, dispositions of assets or shares and recapitalizations.

An "interested shareholder" is (i) any person that directly or indirectly beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock; or (ii) any of our affiliates or associates (as those terms are defined in the New Jersey Shareholders Protection Act) that directly or indirectly beneficially owned 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding stock at any time within a five-year period immediately prior to the date in question.

Certain Provisions of Our Amended Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

Board of Directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide that our board of directors shall consist of at least three directors but not more than eleven directors, as may be determined by the board of directors from time to time. Currently, our board of directors consists of nine directors, six of whom are independent directors. Any vacancy on our board of directors, including a vacancy resulting from an enlargement of our board of directors, may be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors then in office, though less than a quorum. Any such director so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the director for which the vacancy was created or occurred and until his or her successor shall have been

Table of Contents

elected and qualified. The limitation on filling vacancies could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or discourage a third party from attempting to acquire, control of our company.

Board meetings. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the chairman of our board of directors, our chief executive officer or by any two directors in office.

Stockholder meetings. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by our stockholders at an annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders may only be taken if it is properly brought before such meeting and may not be taken by non-unanimous written action in lieu of a meeting. Our bylaws further provide that special meetings of the stockholders may only be called by the chairman of the board of directors, our president, by a committee that is duly designated by the board of directors, by resolution adopted by the affirmative vote of the majority of the board of directors or pursuant to an order of the New Jersey Superior Court in accordance with NJBCA.

Requirements for advance notification of stockholder nominations and proposals. Our amended and restated bylaws establish advance notice procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of our board of directors or a committee of the board of directors. In order for any matter to be considered "properly brought" before a meeting, a stockholder must comply with requirements regarding advance notice and provide certain information to us. These provisions could have the effect of delaying until the next stockholders meeting stockholder actions that are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities. These provisions could also discourage a third party from making a tender offer for our common stock, because even if it acquired a majority of our outstanding voting securities, it would be able to take action as a stockholder (such as electing new directors or approving a merger) only at a duly called stockholders meeting and not by non-unanimous written consent.

Stockholder action by written consent. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws prohibit stockholder action by non-unanimous written consent and require all such actions to be taken at a meeting of stockholders of our common stock.

Cumulative voting. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that our stockholders shall have no cumulative voting rights.

Amendment of certificate of incorporation and bylaws. The amendment of the provisions described above in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation generally will require the affirmative vote of a majority of our directors, as well as the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66²/₃% of our then-outstanding voting stock. Our amended and restated bylaws may be amended (i) by the affirmative vote of the majority of our board of directors or (ii) by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of our then outstanding voting stock.

Nasdaq Global Market Trading

Shares of our common stock are listed for trading on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol "LINC."

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We and the selling stockholders, and their pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors in interest, may, from time to time, offer and sell, separately or together, some or all of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus. Registration of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus does not mean, however, that those shares of common stock will be offered or sold.

The shares of common stock covered by this prospectus may be sold from time to time, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to market prices, at a fixed price or prices subject to change or at negotiated prices, by a variety of methods including, but not limited to, the following:

through one or more underwriters on a firm commitment or best efforts basis;

on the Nasdaq Global Market (including through at the market offerings);

in the over-the-counter market;

directly to one or more purchasers;

through agents;

through broker-dealers, who may act as agents or principals, including a block trade in which a broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the common stock as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

through put or call option transactions relating to our common stock;

in privately negotiated transactions; and

in any combination of these methods of sale.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth:

the specific terms of the offering of our common stock, including the name or names of any selling stockholders and any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering;

the purchase price of the common stock and the proceeds to us or the selling stockholders from the sale;

any underwriting discounts and commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

the initial offering price to the public and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

the name of any securities exchange on which the common stock may be listed.

Any public offering price, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

We or the selling stockholders may also enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers. In connection with such transactions, broker-dealers of other financial institutions may engage in short sales of our common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume with us or the selling stockholders. We or the selling stockholders may also enter into options or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

Offers to purchase our securities may be solicited by agents designated by us or the selling stockholders from time to time. Broker-dealers or agents may receive compensation in the form of

Table of Contents

commissions, discounts or concessions from us or the selling stockholders. Broker-dealers or agents may also receive compensation from the purchasers of the common stock for whom they sell as principals. Each particular broker-dealer will receive compensation in amounts negotiated in connection with the sale, which might be in excess of customary commissions. Broker-dealers or agents and any other participating broker-dealers participating in the distribution of our common stock may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of our common stock may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

If we or the selling stockholders use underwriters for an offering of the common stock, the underwriters may acquire the common stock for their own accounts. The underwriters may resell the common stock from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at varying prices determined by the underwriters at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices. We or the selling stockholders also may, from time to time, authorize underwriters acting as our agents to offer and sell the common stock upon the terms and conditions as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with the sale of the common stock, underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation from us or the selling stockholders in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and also may receive commissions from purchasers of the common stock. Underwriters may sell the common stock to or through dealers, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers of the common stock.

Under agreements into which we or the selling stockholders may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of the common stock may be entitled to indemnification, or contribution to payments they may be required to make, by us or the selling stockholders against some liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The terms and conditions of this indemnification or contribution will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Any underwriting compensation we or the selling stockholders may pay to underwriters or agents in connection with any offering of the common stock and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum commission or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the common stock offered by this prospectus; however, it is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be significantly less than this amount.

We or the selling stockholders may grant to the underwriters options to purchase additional common stock to cover over-allotments, if any, at the public offering price with additional underwriting discounts or commissions, as may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Underwriters and others participating in any offering of the common stock may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of our common stock. We will describe any such activities in the prospectus supplement.

Any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in any distribution or sale of our common stock may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us or the selling stockholders or any of our or their affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

We will bear all costs, expenses and fees in connection with the registration and sale of the common stock. We will also bear the expense of all underwriting commissions and discounts, if any, attributable to the sales of the common stock by us but not by the selling stockholders.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Shearman & Sterling LLP, New York, New York, will pass upon certain legal matters for us. The validity of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by McCarter & English, LLP, Newark, New Jersey.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements, the related financial statement schedule, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Lincoln Educational Services Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference (which reports (1) express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule and include an explanatory paragraph relating to the adoption of the provision of FASB Interpretation No. 48, "*Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*," and (2) express an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting). Such financial statements and financial statement schedule have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important business and financial information to you that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus by referring you to publicly filed documents that contain the omitted information.

You can read and copy any materials on file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information about the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a website that contains information we file electronically with the SEC, which you can access over the internet at www.sec.gov.

The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and the information we later file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede earlier information. We incorporate by reference the following documents filed with the SEC by us and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of our common stock covered by this prospectus (except for information furnished to the SEC that is not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of the Exchange Act):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008 and June 30, 2008;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed April 1, 2008 and August 6, 2008 (but only with respect to the disclosure under Item 5.02 included in such report);

our Proxy Statement filed March 31, 2008; and

the description of our common stock included in Item 1 of our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on June 22, 2005.

You may also request a copy of the information we incorporate by reference in this prospectus at no cost by writing or telephoning us at Lincoln Educational Services Corporation, 200 Executive Drive, Suite 340, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, Attention: Investor Relations, (973) 736-9340.

Edgar Filing: LINCOLN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CORP - Form 424B3

Information is also available on our website at www.lincolneducationalservices.com. Information contained in, or accessible through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents
