

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2019

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-34211

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation or organization)*

20-3356009
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

2600 W. Camelback Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85017
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

(602) 247-4400
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	LOPE	Nasdaq Global Select Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large Accelerated Filer
Non-accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer
Smaller Reporting Company
Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The total number of shares of common stock outstanding as of November 1, 2019, was 48,225,070.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
FORM 10-Q
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PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION**Item 1. Financial Statements****GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Income Statements
(Unaudited)**

(In thousands, except per share data)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Service revenue	\$ 193,289	\$ 155,454	\$ 565,396	\$ 155,454
University related revenue	—	—	—	512,499
Net revenue	193,289	155,454	565,396	667,953
Costs and expenses:				
Technology and academic services	24,231	11,101	65,384	32,476
Counseling services and support	56,249	51,116	163,641	152,701
Marketing and communication	37,340	31,546	109,033	90,168
General and administrative	13,556	10,092	34,169	23,273
Amortization of intangible assets	2,179	—	6,044	—
University related expenses	—	6,569	—	173,735
Loss on transaction	—	15,610	3,966	17,600
Total costs and expenses	133,555	126,034	382,237	489,953
Operating income	59,734	29,420	183,159	178,000
Interest income on Secured Note	16,208	13,248	44,425	13,248
Interest expense	(2,875)	(558)	(8,368)	(961)
Investment interest and other	255	371	4,042	2,919
Income before income taxes	73,322	42,481	223,258	193,206
Income tax expense	15,171	8,720	40,752	39,726
Net income	\$ 58,151	\$ 33,761	\$ 182,506	\$ 153,480
Earnings per share:				
Basic income per share	\$ 1.21	\$ 0.71	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.22
Diluted income per share	\$ 1.20	\$ 0.70	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.17
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	47,920	47,682	47,833	47,592
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	48,337	48,422	48,317	48,429

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income
(Unaudited)

(In thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Net income	\$ 58,151	\$ 33,761	\$ 182,506	\$ 153,480
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:				
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities, net of taxes of \$44 for the three months ended September 30, 2018, and \$6 for the nine months ended September 30, 2018	—	(133)	—	(20)
Unrealized gains (losses) on hedging derivatives, net of taxes of \$19 and \$2 for the three months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively, and \$89 and \$81 for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively	(58)	(4)	(329)	248
Comprehensive income	\$ 58,093	\$ 33,624	\$ 182,177	\$ 153,708

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except par value)	September 30, 2019 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2018
ASSETS:		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 119,709	\$ 120,346
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	300	61,667
Investments	14,152	69,002
Accounts receivable, net	83,377	46,830
Interest receivable on Secured Note	5,192	4,650
Income tax receivable	3,559	8
Other current assets	11,255	6,963
Total current assets	237,544	309,466
Property and equipment, net	118,637	111,039
Right-of-use assets	27,730	—
Secured Note receivable	1,009,912	900,093
Amortizable intangible assets, net	204,236	—
Goodwill	160,871	2,941
Other assets	1,742	478
Total assets	\$ 1,760,672	\$ 1,324,017
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 20,742	\$ 14,274
Accrued compensation and benefits	23,689	15,427
Accrued liabilities	18,947	8,907
Income taxes payable	3,396	5,442
Deferred revenue	9,201	—
Current portion of lease liability	2,709	—
Current portion of notes payable	45,332	36,468
Total current liabilities	124,016	80,518
Deferred income taxes, noncurrent	18,310	6,465
Other long term liability	16	—
Lease liability, less current portion	25,440	—
Notes payable, less current portion	211,060	23,437
Total liabilities	378,842	110,420
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 10,000 shares authorized; 0 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018	—	—
Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 100,000 shares authorized; 53,050 and 52,690 shares issued and 48,303 and 48,201 shares outstanding at September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018, respectively	530	527
Treasury stock, at cost, 4,747 and 4,489 shares of common stock at September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018, respectively	(150,872)	(125,452)
Additional paid-in capital	268,279	256,806
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(782)	(453)
Retained earnings	1,264,675	1,082,169
Total stockholders' equity	1,381,830	1,213,597
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,760,672	\$ 1,324,017

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity
(In thousands)
(Unaudited)

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2019

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Retained Earnings	Total
	Shares	Par Value	Shares	Cost				
Balance at December 31, 2018	52,690	\$ 527	4,489	\$ (125,452)	\$ 256,806	\$ (453)	\$ 1,082,169	\$ 1,213,597
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	(329)	182,506	182,177
Common stock purchased for treasury	—	—	175	(17,293)	—	—	—	(17,293)
Restricted shares forfeited	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation	152	1	68	(8,127)	7,739	—	—	(387)
Exercise of stock options	208	2	—	—	3,734	—	—	3,736
Balance at September 30, 2019	53,050	\$ 530	4,747	\$ (150,872)	\$ 268,279	\$ (782)	\$ 1,264,675	\$ 1,381,830

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Retained Earnings	Total
	Shares	Par Value	Shares	Cost				
Balance at December 31, 2017	52,277	523	4,152	(100,694)	232,670	(724)	854,176	985,951
Cumulative effect from the adoption of accounting pronouncements, net of taxes	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,174)	(1,174)
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	228	153,480	153,708
Adoption impact – ASU 2018-02	—	—	—	—	—	(156)	156	—
Common stock purchased for treasury	—	—	39	(4,135)	—	—	—	(4,135)
Restricted shares forfeited	—	—	94	—	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation	163	2	151	(15,153)	17,064	—	—	1,913
Exercise of stock options	130	1	—	—	2,094	—	—	2,095
Balance at September 30, 2018	52,570	\$ 526	4,436	\$ (119,982)	\$ 251,828	\$ (652)	\$ 1,006,638	\$ 1,138,358

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)

(In thousands)	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018
Cash flows provided by operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 182,506	\$ 153,480
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Share-based compensation	7,740	17,066
Provision for bad debts	—	8,669
Depreciation and amortization	13,821	31,783
Amortization of intangible assets	6,044	—
Deferred income taxes	1,873	(13,551)
Loss on transaction, net of costs and asset impairment	3,966	12,605
Other, including fixed asset impairments	(369)	1,411
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable and interest receivable from university partners	(33,853)	(69,501)
Accounts receivable	—	(7,784)
Prepaid expenses and other	(2,187)	(555)
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	419	—
Accounts payable	1,485	(11,938)
Accrued liabilities	10,130	(8,666)
Income taxes receivable/payable	(5,597)	(15,887)
Deferred rent	—	(189)
Deferred revenue	9,156	6,881
Student deposits	—	(7,288)
Net cash provided by operating activities	195,134	96,536
Cash flows used in investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(15,178)	(90,482)
Additions of amortizable content	(191)	—
Acquisition, net of cash acquired	(361,184)	—
Disposition	—	(131,550)
Funding to GCU at closing in excess of required capital	—	(7,377)
Repayment of excess funds by GCU	—	7,377
Funding to GCU for capital expenditures	(169,819)	(12,803)
Repayment by GCU for capital expenditures	60,000	—
Purchases of investments	(1,695)	(31,455)
Proceeds from sale or maturity of investments	56,957	50,561
Net cash used in investing activities	(431,110)	(215,729)
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities:		
Principal payments on notes payable	(71,959)	(5,076)
Debt issuance costs	(2,385)	—
Proceeds from notes payable	243,750	—
Net borrowings from revolving line of credit	26,250	—
Repurchase of common shares including shares withheld in lieu of income taxes	(25,420)	(19,288)
Net proceeds from exercise of stock options	3,736	2,095
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	173,972	(22,269)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash	(62,004)	(141,462)
Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash, beginning of period	182,013	248,008
Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash, end of period	\$ 120,009	\$ 106,546
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 7,751	\$ 738
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 45,786	\$ 69,161
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities		
Sale transaction to GCU through Secured Note financing	\$ —	\$ 870,097
Purchases of property and equipment included in accounts payable	\$ 1,796	\$ 924
Reclassification of capitalized costs – adoption of ASC 606	\$ —	\$ 9,015
Reclassification of deferred revenue – adoption of ASC 606	\$ —	\$ 7,451
Lease adoption - gross up of right of use assets and lease liabilities	\$ 498	\$ —
Reclassification of tax effect within accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ —	\$ 156

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

1. Nature of Business

Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, the “Company” or “GCE”) is a publicly traded education services company. Prior to July 1, 2018, GCE owned and operated Grand Canyon University (the “University”), a comprehensive regionally accredited university that offers graduate and undergraduate degree programs, emphases and certificates across nine colleges both online and on ground at its campus in Phoenix, Arizona, at leased facilities and at facilities owned by third party employers of its students. On July 1, 2018, the Company sold the University to Grand Canyon University, an Arizona non-profit corporation formerly known as Gazelle University (“GCU”). As a result of this transaction (the “Transaction”), GCE became an educational services company focused on providing a full array of support services to institutions in the post-secondary education sector. GCE has developed significant technological solutions, infrastructure and operational processes to provide services to these institutions on a large scale. See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements for a full description of the Transaction.

On January 22, 2019, GCE acquired, by merger, all of the outstanding equity interest of Orbis Education Services, LLC (“Orbis Education”), an education services company that supports healthcare education programs for 21 university partners across the United States, for \$361,184, net of cash acquired (the “Acquisition”). The Company financed a portion of the purchase price through a credit facility provided by a consortium of banks led by our existing bank group. See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statement for a full description of the Acquisition.

As a result of the Transaction and Acquisition, the Company no longer owns and operates an institution of higher education, but instead provides a bundle of services in support of its 21 university partners.

2. The Transaction

Asset Purchase Agreement and Related Agreements

On July 1, 2018, the Company consummated an Asset Purchase Agreement (the “Asset Purchase Agreement”) with GCU. In conjunction with the Asset Purchase Agreement, we received a secured note from GCU as consideration for the transferred assets (the “Transferred Assets”) in the initial principal amount of \$870,097 (the “Secured Note”). The Secured Note contains customary commercial credit terms, including affirmative and negative covenants applicable to GCU, and provides that the Secured Note bears interest at an annual rate of 6.0%, has a maturity date of June 30, 2025, and is secured by all of the assets of GCU. The Secured Note provides for GCU to make interest only payments during the term, with all principal and accrued and unpaid interest due at maturity and also provides that we may loan additional amounts to GCU to fund approved capital expenditures during the first three years of the term. As of September 30, 2019, the Company had loaned \$139,815 to GCU for capital expenditures, which is net of GCU’s repayment of \$60,000 during the third quarter of 2019. In connection with the closing of the Asset Purchase Agreement, the Company and GCU entered into a long-term master services agreement pursuant to which the Company provides identified technology and academic services, counseling services and support, marketing and communication services, and several back-office services to GCU in return for 60% of GCU’s tuition and fee revenue.

The Company was a party to a credit agreement with Bank of America, N.A. as Administrative Agent, and other lenders, dated December 21, 2012 and amended as of January 15, 2016. Effective July 1, 2018, the Company and the lenders amended the credit agreement (the “Amendment”) to release the assets pledged as collateral in order to enable GCE to sell them to GCU and complete the Transaction. In connection with the Amendment, GCE provided restricted cash collateral in the amount of \$61,667 as of December 31, 2018.

Disposed Assets, previously Assets and Liabilities Held for Sale

The Company received Board approval to consummate the Transaction on June 28, 2018, and completed the Transaction on July 1, 2018. As a result, the Company determined that it had met the accounting requirements to classify

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

the assets and liabilities to be transferred in the Transaction as assets and liabilities held for sale as of June 30, 2018. The assets and liabilities held for sale were sold as part of the Transaction on July 1, 2018. Accordingly, the following balances were transferred to GCU as of July 1, 2018:

Restricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 97,443
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,093	9,780
Other assets	7,677
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$166,066	870,097
Total assets held for sale, current	<u>\$ 984,997</u>
Accrued and other liabilities	\$ 5,025
Student deposits	88,010
Deferred revenue	46,325
Note payable	79
Total liabilities held for sale, current	<u>\$ 139,439</u>

The Company received the Secured Note for the Transferred Assets. The Company also transferred cash equal to \$34,107 as part of the closing. Except for identified liabilities assumed by GCU, GCE retained responsibility for all liabilities of the business arising from pre-closing operations. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 the Company had transaction expenses of \$17,600, included in Loss on transaction, which included transaction costs of \$4,995 and an asset impairment of \$3,037 for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. In addition, the Company transferred to GCU cash of \$9,568 to fund a deferred compensation plan for GCU employees who were formerly GCE employees (the “Transferred Employees”) and who held unvested restricted stock of GCE that was forfeited upon the Transaction. Included in the university related expense for the three months ended September 30, 2018 is \$7,880 of share-based compensation expense resulting from the modification and vesting of previously issued restricted stock grants held by Transferred Employees, employer tax expense of \$191 related to the share-based compensation modification, net of reversals of employee related liabilities that were not part of the Transferred Assets for the Transaction of \$1,502.

3. Acquisition

On January 22, 2019, GCE acquired Orbis Education for \$361,184 (inclusive of closing date adjustments and net of cash acquired). Orbis Education is an education services company that supports healthcare education programs for 21 university partners across the United States. Concurrent with the closing of the Acquisition, GCE entered into an amended and restated credit agreement and used \$191,000 from the amended and restated credit agreement and \$171,034 of operating cash on hand to complete the purchase. See Note 11 of our consolidated financial statements for a description of the amended and restated credit agreement. The fair value of the assets acquired, less the liabilities assumed exceeded the purchase price by \$157,930 which was recorded as goodwill. Transaction costs for the Acquisition for the year ended December 31, 2018 were \$808 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 were \$3,966, which are included in the Loss on transaction in our consolidated income statement.

The Acquisition was accounted for in accordance with the acquisition method of accounting. Under this method the cost of the target is allocated to the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their estimated fair values at the date of acquisition. The following table provides a tabular depiction of the Company’s

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

allocation of the total purchase price to each of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on the Company's fair value estimates.

<i>Assets acquired</i>	
Cash, including \$300 of pledged collateral	\$ 4,793
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$0	\$ 3,236
Property and equipment	\$ 5,392
Right-of-use assets	\$ 13,069
Intangible assets	\$ 210,280
Other assets	\$ 2,793
<i>Liabilities assumed</i>	
Accounts payable	\$ 4,308
Accrued and other liabilities	\$ 4,451
Lease liability	\$ 13,069
Deferred tax liability	\$ 9,643
Deferred revenue	\$ 45
Total net asset or liability purchased and assumed	\$ 208,047
Purchase price	\$ 365,977
Excess of fair value of net assets acquired over consideration given	\$ 157,930

The estimated fair values of current assets and liabilities were based upon their historical costs on the date of acquisition due to their short-term nature. The majority of property and equipment were also estimated based upon historical costs as they approximated fair value. Identified intangible assets of \$210,280 consisted primarily of university partner relationships that were valued at \$210,000. The fair value of university partner relationships was determined using the multiple-period excess earnings method.

The amounts recorded related to the Acquisition are subject to adjustment as the Company has not yet completed the final allocation of the purchase price. The Company adjusted its allocation of the purchase price by \$9,643 in the three months ended June 30, 2019, primarily as the result of the tax effect of a lower tax basis in the acquired assets. The Company has one year from the date of the Acquisition to complete the allocation of the purchase price.

The Company has consolidated the results of operations for Orbis Education since its Acquisition on January 22, 2019. Consolidated net revenue and consolidated net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 include \$62,289 of service revenue and a loss, net of taxes, of \$1,297 from Orbis Education, which includes \$6,044 of amortization of intangible assets. The following table reports pro forma information as if the Acquisition of Orbis Education had been completed at the beginning of the earliest period presented:

	<u>Three Months Ended September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended September 30,</u>	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Net revenue				
As Reported	\$ 193,289	\$ 155,454	\$ 565,396	\$ 667,953
Pro forma	\$ 193,289	\$ 171,265	\$ 568,646	\$ 712,304
Net income				
As Reported	\$ 58,151	\$ 33,761	\$ 182,506	\$ 153,480
Pro forma	\$ 58,151	\$ 29,886	\$ 171,261	\$ 130,713

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

The pro forma information above for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018 includes acquisition related costs in both periods, amortization of intangible assets as a result of the Acquisition, additional interest expense on the debt issued to finance the Acquisition, depreciation expense based on the estimated fair value of the assets acquired, and warrant expense and related tax effects. The pro forma financial information is not necessarily indicative of the results of operations that would have occurred had the transactions been consummated on January 1, 2019 and 2018.

4. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Unaudited Interim Financial Information

The accompanying unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and pursuant to the rules and regulations of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10, consistent in all material respects with those applied in its financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. They do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Such interim financial information is unaudited but reflects all adjustments that in the opinion of management are necessary for the fair presentation of the interim periods presented. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year. These consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements and footnotes included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 from which the December 31, 2018 balance sheet information was derived. For purposes hereof, the term "university related revenue" refer to the Company's revenue from operations prior to the sale of the University to GCU, and the term "university related expenses" refers to the Company's expenses related to the operation of the University prior to the sale of the University to GCU and that are now the responsibility of GCU.

Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

A significant portion of the Company's university related revenue was received from students who participated in government financial aid and assistance programs. Prior to July 1, 2018, restricted cash and cash equivalents represented amounts received from the federal and state governments under various student aid grant and loan programs, such as Title IV. The Company received these funds subsequent to the completion of the authorization and disbursement process and held them for the benefit of the student. The Department of Education requires Title IV funds collected in advance of student billings to be restricted until the course begins. Prior to the Transaction, the Company recorded all of these amounts as a current asset in restricted cash and cash equivalents. The majority of these funds remained as restricted for an average of 60 to 90 days from the date of receipt. Restricted cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2018 represents the cash collateral on the credit agreement, which was released as part of the amended and restated credit agreement on January 22, 2019. Restricted cash and cash equivalents at September 30, 2019 represents cash pledged for leased office space.

Investments

The Company considers its investments in municipal bonds, mutual funds, municipal securities, certificates of deposit and commercial paper as available-for-sale securities or trading securities based on the Company's intent for the respective security. Available-for-sale securities are carried at fair value, determined using Level 1 and Level 2 of the

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

hierarchy of valuation inputs, with the use of quoted market prices and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets, with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, reported as a separate component of other comprehensive income. Unrealized losses considered to be other-than-temporary are recognized currently in earnings. Amortization of premiums, accretion of discounts, interest and dividend income and realized gains and losses are included in interest and other income. As of December 31, 2018, the Company transferred its investments from available-for-sale to trading, due to the Company's decision to liquidate all investments to fund a portion of the purchase price paid in the Acquisition. Trading securities are carried at fair value and unrealized holding gains and losses are included in earnings. See Note 3 of our consolidated financial statements for further discussion on the Acquisition.

Derivatives and Hedging

Derivative financial instruments are recorded on the balance sheet as assets or liabilities and re-measured at fair value at each reporting date. For derivatives designated as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is reported as a component of other comprehensive income and reclassified into earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing either hedge ineffectiveness or hedge components excluded from the assessment of effectiveness are recognized in current earnings.

Derivative financial instruments enable the Company to manage its exposure to interest rate risk. The Company does not engage in any derivative instrument trading activity. Credit risk associated with the Company's derivative is limited to the risk that a derivative counterparty will not perform in accordance with the terms of the contract. Exposure to counterparty credit risk is considered low because these agreements have been entered into with institutions with Aa or higher credit ratings, and they are expected to perform fully under the terms of the agreements.

On February 27, 2013, the Company entered into an interest rate corridor to manage its 30-Day LIBOR interest exposure related to its variable rate debt. The fair value of the interest rate corridor instrument as of September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018 was \$79 and \$600, respectively, which is included in other assets. The fair value of the derivative instrument was determined using a hypothetical derivative transaction and Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs. This derivative instrument was originally designated as a cash flow hedge of variable rate debt obligations. The adjustment of (\$418) and \$329 for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively, for the effective portion of the gains and losses on the derivatives is included as a component of other comprehensive income, net of taxes.

The interest rate corridor instrument reduces variable interest rate risk starting March 1, 2013 through December 20, 2019 with a notional amount of \$55,000 as of September 30, 2019. The corridor instrument's terms permit the Company to hedge its interest rate risk at several thresholds; the Company pays variable interest monthly based on the 30-Day LIBOR rates until that index reaches 1.5%. If 30-Day LIBOR is equal to 1.5% through 3.0%, the Company pays 1.5%. If 30-Day LIBOR exceeds 3.0%, the Company pays actual 30-Day LIBOR less 1.5%.

At September 30, 2019, the Company expects to reclassify gains or losses on derivative instruments from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into earnings during the next 3 months as the derivative instrument expires in December 2019.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued compensation and benefits and accrued liabilities expenses approximate their fair value based on the liquidity or the short-term maturities of these instruments. The carrying value of notes receivable, non-current approximates fair value as the Secured Note resulted from the Transaction and was negotiated at fair market value. The carrying value of notes payable approximates fair value as it is based on variable rate index. Derivative financial instruments are carried at

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fair value, determined using Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs as defined in the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (“Codification”), with the use of inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

The fair value of investments, primarily municipal securities, was determined using Level 2 of the hierarchy of valuation inputs, with the use of inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets. The unit of account used for valuation is the individual underlying security. The municipal securities are comprised of city and county bonds related to schools, water and sewer, utilities, transportation, healthcare and housing.

Revenue Recognition

University related revenue – prior to July 1, 2018

On January 1, 2018, the Company adopted “Revenue from Contracts with Customers” using the modified retrospective method applied to all contracts. Prior to the Transaction on July 1, 2018, net revenues consisted primarily of tuition, net of scholarships, and fees derived from courses taught by the University online, on ground, and at facilities it leased or those of employers, as well as from related educational resources that the University provided to its students, such as access to online materials. Tuition revenue was recognized pro-rata over the applicable period of instruction. A contract was entered into with a student and covered a course or semester. Revenue recognition occurred once a student started attending a course. The Company also charged online students an upfront learning management fee, which was deferred and recognized over the initial course. The Company had no costs that were capitalized to obtain or to fulfill a contract with a customer. Ancillary revenues included housing and fee revenues that were recognized over the period the services were provided and also included revenues from sales and services such as food and beverage, merchandise, hotel, golf and arena events that were recognized as sales occurred or services were performed as these services were transferred at a point in time. For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Company’s revenue was reduced by approximately \$101,176, as a result of scholarships that the Company offered to students. Sales tax collected from students is excluded from net revenues. Collected but unremitted sales tax is included as an accrued liability in our consolidated balance sheet.

The following table presents our revenues disaggregated by the nature of transfer of services for the six months ended June 30, 2018:

Tuition revenues	\$ 522,430
Ancillary revenues (housing, meals, fees, golf, hotel, arena, other)	91,245
Total revenues	<u>613,675</u>
Scholarships	<u>(101,176)</u>
Net Revenues	<u>\$ 512,499</u>

The Company’s receivables represented unconditional rights to consideration from its contracts with students; accordingly, students were not billed until they started attending a course and the revenue recognition process had commenced. Once a student had been invoiced, payment was due immediately. Included in each invoice to the student were all educational related items including tuition, net of scholarships, housing, educational materials, fees, etc. The Company did not have any contract assets. The Company’s contract liabilities were reported as deferred revenue and student deposits in the consolidated balance sheets. Deferred revenue and student deposits in any period represented the excess of tuition, fees, and other student payments received as compared to amounts recognized as revenue on the consolidated income statement and were reflected as current liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The Company’s education programs had starting and ending dates that differ from its fiscal quarters. Therefore, at the end of each fiscal quarter, a portion of revenue from these programs was not yet earned. The majority of the University’s traditional ground students did not attend courses during the summer months (May through August), which affected our results for our second and third fiscal quarters.

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The Company had identified a performance obligation associated with the provision of its educational instruction and other educational services, housing services, and other academic related services and used the output measure for recognition as the period of time over which the services were provided to our students. The Company had identified performance obligations related to its hotel, golf course, restaurants, sale of branded promotional items and other ancillary activities and recognized revenue at the point in time goods or services were provided to its customers. The Company maintained an institutional tuition refund policy, which provided for all or a portion of tuition to be refunded if a student withdrew during stated refund periods. Certain states in which students reside impose separate, mandatory refund policies, which overrode the Company's policy to the extent in conflict. If a student withdrew at a time when only a portion, or none of the tuition was refundable, then in accordance with its revenue recognition policy, the Company continued to recognize the tuition that was not refunded pro-rata over the applicable period of instruction. The Company did not record revenue on amounts that may be refunded. However, for students that had taken out financial aid to pay their tuition and for which a return of such money to the Department of Education under Title IV was required as a result of his or her withdrawal, the Company reassessed collectability for these students each quarter for the estimated revenue that will be returned and recognized the revenue in future periods when payment was received. The Company had elected the short-term contract exemption with respect to its performance obligations under its contracts with students as all such contracts had original terms of less than one year.

Service revenue commenced July 1, 2018

Starting July 1, 2018, the Company generates all of its revenue through services agreements with its university partners ("Services Agreements"), pursuant to which the Company provides integrated technology and academic services, marketing and communication services, and back office services to its university partners in return for a percentage of tuition and fee revenue. Effective July 1, 2018, as an education services provider, the Company adopted "*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*" which it applies to its Services Agreements.

The Company's Services Agreements have initial terms ranging from 7-15 years, subject to renewal options, although certain agreements may give the university partners the right to terminate early if certain conditions are met. The Company's Services Agreements have a single performance obligation, as the promises to provide the identified services are not distinct within the context of these agreements. The single performance obligation is delivered as our partners receive and consume benefits, which occurs ratably over a series of distinct service periods (daily or semester). Service revenue is recognized over time using the output method of measuring progress towards complete satisfaction of the single performance obligation. The output method provides a faithful depiction of the performance toward complete satisfaction of the performance obligation and can be tied to the time elapsed which is consumed evenly over the service period and is a direct measurement of the value provided to our partners. The service fees received from our partners over the term of the agreement are variable in nature in that they are dependent upon the number of students attending the university partner's program and revenues generated from those students during the service period. Due to the variable nature of the consideration over the life of the service arrangement, the Company considers forming an expectation of the variable consideration to be received over the service life of this one performance obligation. However, since the performance obligation represents a series of distinct services, the Company recognizes the variable consideration that becomes known and billable because these fees related to the distinct service period in which the fees are earned. The Company meets the criteria in the standard and exercises the practical expedient to not disclose the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to the single performance obligation that is unsatisfied as of the end of the reporting period. The Company does not disclose the value of unsatisfied performance obligations because the directly allocable variable consideration is allocated entirely to a wholly unsatisfied promise to transfer a service that forms part of a single performance obligation. The service fees are calculated and settled per the terms of the Services Agreements and result in a settlement duration of less than one year for all partners. There are no refunds or return rights under the Services Agreements.

The Company's receivables represent unconditional rights to consideration from our Services Agreements with our university partners. Accounts receivable, net is stated at net realizable value and contains billed and unbilled

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revenue. The Company utilizes the allowance method to provide for doubtful accounts based on its evaluation of the collectability of the amounts due. There have been no amounts written off and no reserves established as of September 30, 2019 given historical collection experience. The Company will continue to review and revise its allowance methodology based on its collection experience with its partners.

For our partners with unbilled revenue, revenue recognition occurs in advance of billings. Billings for some university partners do not occur until after the service period has commenced and final enrollment information is available. Our unbilled revenue of \$5,059 as of September 30, 2019 represents contract assets included in accounts receivable in our consolidated balance sheets. Deferred revenue represents the excess of amounts received as compared to amounts recognized in revenue on our consolidated statements of income as of the end of the reporting period, and such amounts are reflected as a current liability on our consolidated balance sheets. We generally receive payments for our services billed within 30 days of invoice. These payments are recorded as deferred revenue until the services are delivered and revenue is recognized.

Internally Developed Technology

The Company capitalizes certain costs related to internal-use software, primarily consisting of direct labor associated with creating technology. Software development projects generally include three stages: the preliminary project stage (all costs are expensed as incurred), the application development stage (certain costs are capitalized and certain costs are expensed as incurred) and the post-implementation or operation stage (all costs are expensed as incurred). Costs capitalized in the application development stage include costs of design, coding, integration, and testing of the software developed. Capitalization of costs requires judgment in determining when a project has reached the application development stage and the period over which we expect to benefit from the use of that software. Once the software is placed in service, these costs are amortized over the estimated useful life of the software, which is generally three years. These assets are a component of our property and equipment, net in our consolidated balance sheet.

Capitalized Content Development

The Company capitalizes certain costs to fulfill a contract related to the development and digital creation of content on a course-by-course basis for each university partner, many times in conjunction with faculty and subject matter experts. The Company is responsible for the conversion of instructional materials to an on-line format, including outlines, quizzes, lectures, and articles in accordance with the educational guidelines provided to us by our university partners, prior to the respective course commencing. We also capitalize the creation of learning objects which are digital assets such as online demonstrations, simulations, and case studies used to obtain learning objectives.

Costs that are capitalized include payroll and payroll-related costs for employees who are directly associated and spend time producing content and payments to faculty and subject matter experts involved in the process. The Company starts capitalizing content costs when it begins to develop or to convert a particular course, resources have been assigned and a timeline has been set. The content asset is placed in service when all work is complete and the curriculum could be used for instruction. Capitalized content development assets are included in other assets in our consolidated balance sheets. The Company has concluded that the most appropriate method to amortize the deferred content assets is on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the course, which is generally four years which corresponds with course's review and major revision cycle. As of September 30, 2019, \$1,094, net of amortization, of deferred content assets are included in other assets, long-term in the Company's consolidated balance sheets and amortization is included in technical and academic services where the costs originated.

Amortizable Intangible Assets

The Company capitalizes purchased intangible assets, such as university partner relationships (customer relationships), and tradenames, and amortizes them on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

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Business Combinations

The purchase price of an acquisition is allocated to the assets acquired, including intangible assets, and liabilities assumed, based on their respective fair values at the acquisition date. Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred. The excess of the cost of an acquired entity, net of the amounts assigned to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, is recognized as goodwill. The net assets and result of operations of an acquired entity are included on the Company's consolidated financial statements from the acquisition date.

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost over the fair market value of net assets acquired, including identified intangible assets. Goodwill is tested annually or more frequently if circumstances indicate potential impairment. The Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") has issued guidance that permits an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is necessary to perform the two-step quantitative goodwill impairment test. The Company reviews goodwill at least annually or more frequently if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of the reporting unit below its carrying value.

Long-Lived Assets (other than goodwill)

The Company evaluates the recoverability of its long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to undiscounted future net cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets.

Technology and Academic Services

Technology and academic services consist primarily of costs related to ongoing maintenance of educational infrastructure, including online course delivery and management, student records, assessment, customer relations management and other internal administrative systems. This also includes costs to provide support for content development, support for faculty including training and development, technology support, rent and occupancy costs for university partners' off-campus locations, and assistance with state compliance. This expense category includes salaries, benefits and share-based compensation, information technology costs, amortization of content development costs and other costs associated with these support services. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of certain services, primarily at the Company's Phoenix, Arizona location.

Counseling Services and Support

Counseling services and support consist primarily of costs including team-based counseling and other support to prospective and current students as well as financial aid processing. This expense category includes salaries, benefits and share-based compensation, and other costs such as dues, fees and subscriptions and travel costs. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, lease expense, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of certain services, primarily at the Company's Phoenix, Arizona location.

Marketing and Communication

Marketing and communication includes lead acquisition, digital communication strategies, brand identity advertising, media planning and strategy, video, data science and analysis, marketing to potential students and other promotional and communication services. This expense category includes salaries, benefits and share-based

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compensation for marketing and communication personnel, brand advertising, marketing leads and other promotional and communication expenses. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, lease expense, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of certain services, primarily at the Company's Phoenix, Arizona and Indianapolis, Indiana locations. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred.

General and Administrative

General and administrative expenses include salaries, benefits and share-based compensation of employees engaged in corporate management, finance, human resources, compliance, and other corporate functions. This category also includes an allocation of depreciation, amortization, lease expense, and occupancy costs attributable to the provision of these services, primarily at the Company's Phoenix, Arizona and Indianapolis, Indiana locations.

University related expenses

University related expenses represent the costs that were transferred to GCU in the Transaction and that are no longer incurred by the Company.

Commitments and Contingencies

The Company accrues for contingent obligations when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount is reasonably estimable. When the Company becomes aware of a claim or potential claim, the likelihood of any loss exposure is assessed. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss is estimable, the Company records a liability for the estimated loss. If the loss is not probable or the amount of the potential loss is not estimable, the Company will disclose the claim if the likelihood of a potential loss is reasonably possible and the amount of the potential loss could be material. Estimates that are particularly sensitive to future changes include tax, legal, and other regulatory matters, which are subject to change as events evolve, and as additional information becomes available during the administrative and litigation process. The Company expenses legal fees as incurred.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company believes the credit risk related to cash equivalents and investments is limited due to its adherence to an investment policy that requires investments to have a minimum BBB rating, depending on the type of security, by one major rating agency at the time of purchase. All of the Company's cash equivalents and investments as of September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018 consist of investments rated BBB or higher by at least one rating agency. Additionally, the Company utilizes more than one financial institution to conduct initial and ongoing credit analysis on its investment portfolio to monitor and lower the potential impact of market risk associated with its cash equivalents and investment portfolio. The Company is also subject to credit risk for its accounts receivable balance. The Company has not experienced any losses on receivables since July 1, 2018, the date the Company transitioned to an educational service provider. To manage accounts receivable risk, the Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts, if needed. Our dependence on our largest university partner subjects us to the risk that declines in our customer's operations would result in a sustained reduction in revenues for the Company.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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Segment Information

The Company operates as a single educational services company using a core infrastructure that serves the curriculum and educational delivery needs of its 21 university partners. The Company's Chief Executive Officer manages the Company's operations as a whole and no expense or operating income information is generated or evaluated on any component level.

Accounting Pronouncements Adopted in 2019

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842), which introduced a lessee model that requires the majority of leases to be recognized on the balance sheet. On January 1, 2019, the Company adopted the ASU using the modified retrospective transition approach and elected the transition option to recognize the adjustment in the period of adoption rather than in the earliest period presented. Adoption of the new guidance resulted in an immaterial amount of right-of-use ("ROU") assets and lease liabilities of \$498. Subsequent to adoption, the Company recognized ROU assets of \$13,069 and lease liabilities of \$13,069 acquired in the Acquisition. As part of the adoption process the Company made the following elections:

- The Company elected the hindsight practical expedient, for all leases.
- The Company elected the package of practical expedients to not reassess prior conclusions related to contracts containing leases, lease classification and initial direct costs for all leases.
- The Company elected to make the accounting policy election for short-term leases resulting in lease payments being recorded as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

ROU assets and lease liabilities are recognized at commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. The Company's leases do not provide an implicit rate. The Company uses its incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments. Refer to Note 10 to our consolidated financial statements for further disclosures regarding the impact of adopting this standard.

In August 2017, the FASB issued "Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities." This standard targets improvements in the hedge relationship documentation, testing and disclosures for derivatives. This standard is effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018. Accordingly, the standard was adopted by us as of January 1, 2019. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or statement of cash flows. The Company elected a qualitative approach starting in 2019 to assess its hedge effectiveness and included updated disclosures as required by the standard.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-04, *Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350); Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*, which eliminated step two from the goodwill impairment test and requires an entity to recognize an impairment charge for the amount by which the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, up to the amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. The amendments in this standard are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted. The Company expects that the adoption of this standard will impact its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures only to the extent that a future goodwill impairment test results in the recognition of an impairment charge.

The Company has determined that no other recent accounting pronouncements apply to its operations or could otherwise have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

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5. Investments

At December 31, 2018, the Company transferred its investments from available-for-sale classification to trading, due to the Company's decision to liquidate all investments to complete the Acquisition in the first quarter of 2019. Prior to December 31, 2018, the Company considered all investments as available-for-sale. At September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018, the Company had \$14,152 and \$69,002, respectively, of investments. These investments were held in municipal and corporate securities as of September 30, 2019 and December 31, 2018.

6. Net Income Per Common Share

Basic earnings per common share is calculated by dividing net income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per common share reflects the assumed conversion of all potentially dilutive securities, consisting of stock options and restricted stock awards, for which the estimated fair value exceeds the exercise price, less shares which could have been purchased with the related proceeds, unless anti-dilutive. For employee equity awards, repurchased shares are also included for any unearned compensation adjusted for tax. The table below reflects the calculation of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, on an as if converted basis, used in computing basic and diluted earnings per common share.

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Denominator:				
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	47,920	47,682	47,833	47,592
Effect of dilutive stock options and restricted stock	417	740	484	837
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	<u>48,337</u>	<u>48,422</u>	<u>48,317</u>	<u>48,429</u>

Diluted weighted average shares outstanding excludes the incremental effect of unvested restricted stock and shares that would be issued upon the assumed exercise of stock options in accordance with the treasury stock method. For both the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, none of the Company's stock options and restricted stock awards outstanding were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as their inclusion would have been anti-dilutive.

7. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

	Balance at		Deductions/		Balance at
	Beginning of	Charged to	Transfers⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Transfers⁽²⁾	End of
	Period	Expense			Period
Allowance for doubtful accounts receivable					
Nine months ended September 30, 2019	\$ —	—	—	—	\$ —
Nine months ended September 30, 2018	\$ 5,907	8,669	(8,483)	(6,093)	\$ —

(1) Deductions represent accounts written off, net of recoveries.

(2) Allowance was transferred to GCU with other educational assets and liabilities on July 1, 2018. See Note 2.

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8. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consist of the following:

	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2018</u>
Land	\$ 5,579	\$ 5,579
Land improvements	2,242	2,242
Buildings	51,399	51,409
Buildings and leasehold improvements	11,093	9,581
Computer equipment	92,650	85,316
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	9,395	4,955
Internally developed software	35,524	39,270
Construction in progress	3,034	2,376
	<u>210,916</u>	<u>200,728</u>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(92,279)	(89,689)
Property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 118,637</u>	<u>\$ 111,039</u>

9. Intangible Assets

Amortizable intangible assets consist of the following as of:

	Estimated Average Useful Life (in years)	September 30, 2019		Net Carrying Amount
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	
University partner relationships	25	\$ 210,000	(5,838)	\$ 204,162
Trade names	1	280	(206)	74
Total amortizable intangible assets, net		<u>\$ 210,280</u>	<u>(6,044)</u>	<u>\$ 204,236</u>

Amortization expense for university partner relationships and trade names for the years ending December 31:

2019	\$ 2,179
2020	8,419
2021	8,419
2022	8,419
2023	8,419
Thereafter	168,381
	<u>\$ 204,236</u>

10. Leases

The Company has operating leases for classroom site locations, office space, office equipment, and optical fiber communication lines. These leases have terms that range from 3 months to 10 years. At lease inception, we determined the lease term by assuming no exercises of renewal options, due to the Company's constantly changing geographical needs for its university partners. Leases with an initial term of 12 months or less are not recorded in the consolidated balance sheets and we recognize lease expense for these leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The Company has operating lease costs of \$2,681 and \$827 for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The consolidated financial statements for years before January 1, 2019 are not presented on the same accounting basis with respect to leases. There was an immaterial amount of future lease obligations as of September 30,

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2018. The majority of leases that existed for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 were assigned to GCU in the Transaction that occurred on July 1, 2018.

As of September 30, 2019, the Company had \$14,116 of non-cancelable operating lease commitments, primarily for classroom site locations and office space, that has not yet commenced. These operating leases will commence in 2019 or 2020 with a lease term of 10.5 years. The Company's weighted-average remaining lease term relating to its operating leases is 8.46 years, with a weighted-average discount rate of 4.3%. As of September 30, 2019, the Company had no financing leases.

Future payment obligations with respect to the Company's operating leases, which were existing at September 30, 2019, by year and in the aggregate, are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 916
2020	3,651
2021	4,462
2022	4,302
2023	3,719
Thereafter	17,087
Total lease payments	\$ 34,137
Less interest	5,988
Present value of lease liabilities	\$ 28,149

11. Notes Payable and Other Noncurrent Liabilities

We entered into an amended and restated credit agreement dated January 22, 2019 and two related amendments dated January 31, 2019 and dated February 1, 2019, respectively, that together provide a credit facility of \$325,000 comprised of a term loan facility of \$243,750 and a revolving credit facility of \$81,250, both with a five-year maturity date. The term facility is subject to quarterly amortization of principal, commencing with the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2019, in equal installments of 5% of the principal amount of the term facility per quarter. Both the term loan and revolver have monthly interest payments currently at 30 Day LIBOR plus an applicable margin of 2%. The proceeds of the term loan, together with \$6,250 drawn under the revolver and operating cash on hand were used to complete the Acquisition. Concurrent with the amendment of the credit agreement and Acquisition, we repaid our existing term loan of \$59,850 and our cash collateral of \$61,667 was released. The amended and restated credit agreement contains standard covenants that, among other things, restrict the Company's ability to incur additional debt or make certain investments, and require the Company to achieve certain financial ratios and maintain certain financial conditions. As of September 30, 2019, the Company is in compliance with its debt covenants. The Company concluded that the amended and restated credit agreement is considered a loan modification. Accordingly, the Company allocated the costs paid to the bank consortium based on the borrowing dollars and has recorded an asset of \$596 and a contra liability of \$1,639, which are related to our revolver and term loan, respectively, that is being amortized to interest expense over the five-year maturity date. Additionally, the Company expensed \$150 of third-party costs in the first quarter related to this loan modification.

Subsequent Event

The Company entered into a further amendment for the credit facility on October 31, 2019. This amendment increased the revolving commitment by \$68,750 to \$150,000, while reducing the term loan by the same \$68,750 to \$150,625. Our consolidated balance sheet was adjusted to reflect the classification of amounts owed per the terms of the credit facility. Subsequent to September 30, 2019, the Company elected to repay the \$68,750 revolver on November 1,

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2019. Additionally, the Company elected to repay the outstanding revolver as of September 30, 2019 of \$26,250 in October of 2019.

	<u>As of September 30,</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>As of December 31,</u> <u>2018</u>
Notes Payable		
Note payable, quarterly payment of \$8,368 starting December 31, 2019; interest at 30-Day LIBOR plus 2.00% (4.10% at September 30, 2019) through January 22, 2024	\$ 161,392	\$ 59,905
Revolving line of credit; interest at 30-Day LIBOR plus 2.0% (4.10% at September 30, 2019)	95,000	—
	<u>256,392</u>	<u>59,905</u>
Less: Current portion	45,332	36,468
	<u>\$ 211,060</u>	<u>\$ 23,437</u>

Payments due under the notes payable obligations are as follows as of September 30, 2019:

2019	\$ 20,474
2020	33,144
2021	33,144
2022	33,144
2023	33,144
Thereafter	103,342
Total	<u>\$ 256,392</u>

12. Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Matters

From time to time, the Company is a party to various lawsuits, claims, and other legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of business, some of which are covered by insurance. When the Company is aware of a claim or potential claim, it assesses the likelihood of any loss or exposure. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, the Company records a liability for the loss. If the loss is not probable or the amount of the loss cannot be reasonably estimated, the Company discloses the nature of the specific claim if the likelihood of a potential loss is reasonably possible and the amount involved could be material. With respect to the majority of pending litigation matters, the Company's ultimate legal and financial responsibility, if any, cannot be estimated with certainty and, in most cases, any potential losses related to those matters are not considered probable.

Upon resolution of any pending legal matters, the Company may incur charges in excess of presently established reserves. Management does not believe that any such charges would, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Tax, Income Tax Related

During the first quarter of 2019, the Company reached an agreement with the Arizona Department of Revenue regarding previously filed refund claims related to income tax obligations for calendar year 2008 through calendar year 2013. As a result of the agreement, the Company received a refund of \$7,500, inclusive of both tax and interest. Net of the federal tax benefit, the refund has a favorable tax impact of \$5,925. The Company recorded the impact of this discrete tax item in its first quarter 2019 financials.

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Tax Reserves, Non-Income Tax Related

From time to time the Company has exposure to various non-income tax related matters that arise in the ordinary course of business. The Company reserve is not material for tax matters where its ultimate exposure is considered probable and the potential loss can be reasonably estimated.

13. Share-Based Compensation

Incentive Plan

Prior to June 2017, the Company made grants of restricted stock and stock options under its 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (the “2008 Plan”). In January 2017, the Board of Directors of the Company approved, and at the Company’s 2017 annual meeting of stockholders held on June 14, 2017, the Company’s stockholders adopted, a 2017 Equity Incentive Plan (the “2017 Plan”) under which a maximum of 3,000 shares may be granted. As of September 30, 2019, 1,762 shares were available for grants under the 2017 Plan. All grants of equity incentives made after June 2017 have been made from the 2017 Plan.

Restricted Stock

During the nine months ended September 30, 2019, the Company granted 149 shares of common stock with a service vesting condition to certain of its executives, officers and employees. The restricted shares have voting rights and vest in five annual installments of 20%, with the first installment vesting in March of the calendar year following the date of grant (the “first vesting date”) and subsequent installments vesting on each of the four anniversaries of the first vesting date. Upon vesting, shares will be held in lieu of taxes equivalent to the minimum statutory tax withholding required to be paid when the restricted stock vests. During the nine months ended September 30, 2019, the Company withheld 68 shares of common stock in lieu of taxes at a cost of \$8,127 on the restricted stock vesting dates. In the nine months ended September 30, 2019, the Company granted 3 shares of common stock to the non-employee members of the Company’s Board of Directors. The restricted shares granted to these directors have voting rights and vest on the earlier of (a) the one-year anniversary of the date of grant or (b) immediately prior to the following year’s annual stockholders’ meeting. Included in this amount are the shares of common stock granted in August 2019 to two new non-employee members of the Company’s Board of Directors. The restricted shares granted to these directors have voting rights and vest on the one year anniversary of the date of grant. A summary of the activity related to restricted stock granted under the Company’s Incentive Plan since December 31, 2018 is as follows:

	Total Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value per Share
Outstanding as of December 31, 2018	460	\$ 63.28
Granted	152	\$ 93.62
Vested	(174)	\$ 56.14
Forfeited, canceled or expired	(15)	\$ 82.43
Outstanding as of September 30, 2019	<u>423</u>	<u>\$ 76.43</u>

Grand Canyon Education, Inc.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
(In thousands, except per share data)

Stock Options

During the nine months ended September 30, 2019, no options were granted. A summary of the activity since December 31, 2018 related to stock options granted under the Company's Incentive Plan is as follows:

	Summary of Stock Options Outstanding			
	Total Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (\$) ⁽¹⁾
Outstanding as of December 31, 2018	444	\$ 16.66		
Granted	—	\$ —		
Exercised	(208)	\$ 17.96		
Forfeited, canceled or expired	—	\$ —		
Outstanding as of September 30, 2019	<u>236</u>	<u>\$ 15.51</u>	<u>1.41</u>	<u>\$ 19,438</u>
Exercisable as of September 30, 2019	<u>236</u>	<u>\$ 15.51</u>	<u>1.41</u>	<u>\$ 19,438</u>

(1) Aggregate intrinsic value represents the value of the Company's closing stock price on September 30, 2019 (\$98.20) in excess of the exercise price multiplied by the number of shares underlying options outstanding or exercisable, as applicable.

Share-based Compensation Expense

The table below outlines share-based compensation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018 related to restricted stock and stock options granted:

	2019	2018
Technology and academic services	\$ 1,289	\$ 1,195
Counseling support and services	3,977	3,707
Marketing and communication	64	40
General and administrative	2,410	2,530
University related expenses	—	9,594
Share-based compensation expense included in operating expenses	<u>7,740</u>	<u>17,066</u>
Tax effect of share-based compensation	<u>(1,935)</u>	<u>(4,267)</u>
Share-based compensation expense, net of tax	<u>\$ 5,805</u>	<u>\$ 12,799</u>

14. Treasury Stock

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company to repurchase up to \$175,000 in aggregate of common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The expiration date on the repurchase authorization is December 31, 2020. Repurchases occur at the Company's discretion. Repurchases may be made in the open market, or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant. During the nine months ended September 30, 2019 the Company repurchased 175 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$17,293. At September 30, 2019, there remained \$70,809 available under its current share repurchase authorization. Shares repurchased in lieu of taxes are not included in the repurchase plan totals as they were approved in conjunction with the restricted share awards. Subsequent to September 30, 2019, the Company repurchased 78 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$7,692.

Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and related notes that appear elsewhere in this report.

Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including Item 2, *Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*, contains certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements regarding: proposed new programs; statements as to whether regulatory developments or other matters may or may not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity; statements concerning projections, predictions, expectations, estimates, or forecasts as to our business, financial and operational 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 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:

- the occurrence of any event change or other circumstance that could give rise to the termination of any of the key university partner agreements;
- our ability to properly manage risks and challenges associated with strategic initiatives, including potential acquisitions or divestitures of, or investments in, new businesses, acquisitions of new properties and new university partners, and expansion of services provided to our existing university partners;
- our failure to comply with the extensive regulatory framework applicable to us either directly as a third-party service provider or indirectly through our university partners, including Title IV of the Higher Education Act and the regulations thereunder, state laws and regulatory requirements, and accrediting commission requirements;
- the ability of our university partners’ students to obtain federal Title IV funds, state financial aid, and private financing;
- potential damage to our reputation or other adverse effects as a result of negative publicity in the media, in the industry or in connection with governmental reports or investigations or otherwise, affecting us or other companies in the education services sector;
- risks associated with changes in applicable federal and state laws and regulations and accrediting commission standards, including pending rulemaking by the Department of Education applicable to us directly or indirectly through our university client;
- competition from other education service companies in our geographic region and market sector, including competition for students, qualified executives and other personnel;
- our expected tax payments and tax rate, including the effect of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017;

- our ability to hire and train new, and develop and train existing, employees;
- the pace of growth of our university partners' enrollment and its effect on the pace of our own growth;
- our ability to, on behalf of our university partners, convert prospective students to enrolled students and to retain active students to graduation;
- 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 for our university partners;
- risks associated with the competitive environment for marketing the programs of our university partners;
- failure on our part to keep up with advances in technology that could enhance the experience for our university partners' students;
- the extent to which obligations under our credit agreement, including the need to comply with restrictive and financial covenants and to pay principal and interest payments, limits our ability to conduct our operations or seek new business opportunities;
- our ability to manage future growth effectively; and
- general adverse economic conditions or other developments that affect the job prospects of our university partners' students.

Additional factors that could cause actual results to differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those described in this "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and in "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, as updated in our subsequent reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including any updates found in Part II, Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or our other reports on Form 10-Q. You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statements are made and we assume no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions, or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information, except to the extent required by applicable securities laws. If we do update one or more forward-looking statements, no inference should be drawn that we will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements.

Explanatory Note

Prior to July 1, 2018, the Company, operated Grand Canyon University (the "University"), a comprehensive regionally accredited university that offers graduate and undergraduate degree programs, emphases and certificates across nine colleges both online and on ground at its campus in Phoenix, Arizona, at leased facilities and at facilities owned by third-party employers of its students. On July 1, 2018, the Company sold the University to Grand Canyon University ("GCU"), an independent Arizona non-profit corporation formerly known as Gazelle University, (the "Transaction") pursuant to the terms of an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Asset Purchase Agreement") between the Company and GCU. As a result of this Transaction, GCE became an educational services company focused on providing a full array of support services to institutions in the post-secondary education sector. GCE has developed significant technological solutions, infrastructure and operational processes to provide services to these institutions on a large scale. See Note 2 to consolidated financial statement for a full description of the Transaction.

Beginning on July 1, 2018, GCE began providing services to GCU, its sole university partner during 2018, that included technology and academic services, counseling services and support, marketing and communication services, and back office services such as financial aid processing, accounting, reporting, tax, human resources, and procurement services.

Accordingly, the results of operations discussed herein for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2018 reflect the Company's operations prior to July 1, 2018 which were made up exclusively of the operations of the University. For the period from July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018 and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2019, results of operations do not include the operations of GCU but rather reflect the operations of the Company as a service/technology provider.

Additionally, on January 22, 2019, GCE completed the acquisition of Orbis Education, an educational services company that supports healthcare education programs for 21 universities across the United States for \$361.2 million, net of cash acquired (the "Acquisition"). See Note 3 to consolidated financial statements for a full description of the Acquisition. Therefore, the results of operations for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2019 include Orbis Education's financial results for the period from January 22, 2019 to September 30, 2019.

Overview of Results. End-of-period enrollment in the programs at our university partners for which we provide services increased 10.2% between September 30, 2019 and September 30, 2018 to 108,821 from 98,715. This increase is due to partner enrollments in programs serviced by Orbis Education at September 30, 2019 of 3,975 and due to an increase in enrollments at GCU to 104,846, an increase of 6.2%. Ground enrollment at GCU, at September 30, 2019 and 2018 includes traditional-aged students that are taking Fall school classes and professional studies students. Partner enrollments in programs serviced by Orbis Education were 3,104 at September 30, 2018. The increase in Orbis Education partner enrollments between years is primarily due to the increase in university partners and site locations between years. We believe the increase in GCU enrollments between years is due to the continued increase in its brand recognition and the value proposition that it affords to traditional-aged students and their parents and to working adult students. The 22.1% increase year over year in comparable service fee revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018 was primarily due to our Orbis Education acquisition on January 22, 2019 and the increase in GCU enrollments between years. The partnership agreements that were acquired as part of the Acquisition generally generate a higher revenue per student than our agreement with GCU as these agreements generally have a higher percentage of service revenue, the partners have higher tuition rates than GCU and the majority of these students are studying in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program so these students take on average more credits per semester.

Critical Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

Our critical accounting policies are disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. During the nine months ended September 30, 2019, there have been no significant changes in our critical accounting policies other than the Acquisition as discussed in Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements in Part I, Item 1, and the adoption of the new lease standard as discussed in Notes 4 and 10 to the consolidated financial statements in Part I, Item 1 of this report.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain income statement data as a percentage of net revenue for each of the periods indicated. University related expenses, amortization of intangible assets and the loss on transaction have been excluded from the table below:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
Costs and expenses				
Technology and academic services	12.5 %	7.1 %	11.6 %	4.9 %
Counseling services and support	29.1	32.9	28.9	22.9
Marketing and communication	19.3	20.3	19.3	13.5
General and administrative	7.0	6.5	6.0	3.5

As reflected in the table above, the income statement data as a percentage of revenue is not comparable for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018. This is due to the reduction in revenues associated with the Company transitioning to an education service provider as of July 1, 2018. As a result, the Company has also provided two

additional tables to enhance comparability between periods by showing, on a comparable basis, the types of levels of operating expenses the Company currently incurs as compared to prior to the Transaction. The Company has calculated 60% of university related revenue for periods prior to July 1, 2018, as adjusted “Non-GAAP” net revenue, which is the percentage of GCU’s tuition and fee revenue to which the Company is entitled under the long-term master services agreement with GCU (the “Services Agreement”). The percentages set forth below for periods prior to July 1, 2018 have been derived by dividing the indicated expense by adjusted “Non-GAAP” net revenue. University related expenses and the Loss on transaction have been excluded from the table below:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018
As Adjusted “Non-GAAP” net revenue		
Service revenue	\$ 565,396	\$ 155,454
University related revenue	—	512,499
Net revenue	565,396	667,953
60% of university related revenue	—	307,499
Adjusted “Non-GAAP” net revenue	<u>\$ 565,396</u>	<u>\$ 462,953</u>
	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2019	2018
As % of As Adjusted "Non-GAAP" Revenue		
Operating expenses		
Costs and expenses		
Technology and academic services	11.6 %	7.0 %
Counseling services and support	28.9	33.0
Marketing and communication	19.3	19.5
General and administrative	6.0	5.0

Three Months Ended September 30, 2019 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2018

Service revenue. Our service revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$193.3 million, an increase of \$37.8 million, or 24.3%, as compared to service revenue of \$155.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. The increase year over year in service fee revenue was primarily due to our Orbis Education acquisition on January 22, 2019 and an increase in GCU enrollments between years of 6.2%. Partner enrollments in programs serviced by Orbis Education at September 30, 2019 was 3,975. The Orbis Education university partnership agreements generally generate a higher revenue per student than our agreement with GCU as these agreements generally have a higher percentage of service revenue, the partners have higher tuition rates than GCU and the majority of these students are studying in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program so these students take on average more credits per semester. We are also seeing an increase in revenue per student from our GCU partnership resulting from the increase in residential students.

Technology and academic services. Our technology and academic services expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2019 were \$24.2 million, an increase of \$13.1 million, or 118.3%, as compared to technology and academic services expenses of \$11.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements, which require certain technology and academic services including headcount, as well as the use of classroom facilities and equipment to be provided to each university partner. These costs along with the increased cost to service our primary university partner, GCU resulted in increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation, in occupancy and depreciation including lease expenses, and in technology and academic supply costs of \$10.3 million, \$2.1 million, and \$0.7 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to the increase in the number of staff needed to support our 21 university partners, and their increased enrollment growth, tenure based salary adjustments and an increase in benefit costs between years. Our technology and academic services expenses as a percentage of net revenue increased 5.4% to 12.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2019, from 7.1% for the

three months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements requiring a higher level of technology and academic services than our agreement with GCU.

Counseling services and support. Our counseling services and support expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2019 were \$56.3 million, an increase of \$5.2 million, or 10.0%, as compared to counseling services and support expenses of \$51.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements, which require certain counseling services and support, principally headcount to be provided to each university partner. These costs along with the increased cost to service our primary university partner, GCU, resulted in increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation, in depreciation, amortization and occupancy costs, and in other counseling services and support related expenses of \$3.7 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to increased headcount to support our university partners, and their increased enrollment growth, tenure-based salary adjustments and an increase in benefit costs between years. The increase in other counseling services is primarily the result of increased travel costs to service our 22 university partners. Our counseling services and support expenses as a percentage of net revenue decreased 3.8% to 29.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2019, from 32.9% for the three months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to the counseling services and support costs to service the Orbis Education university partnership agreements being less as a percentage of revenue than the costs to service the GCU agreement and due to our ability to leverage our counseling services and support costs to service GCU across an increasing revenue base.

Marketing and communication. Our marketing and communication expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2019 were \$37.3 million, an increase of \$5.8 million, or 18.4%, as compared to marketing and communication expenses of \$31.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education partnership agreements, which require marketing of the university partners' programs. These costs along with the increased cost to market GCU's programs resulted in the increased advertising of \$5.2 million, employee compensation expenses and related expenses including share-based compensation of \$0.8 million, and a reduction in other communication expenses of \$0.2 million. Our marketing and communication expenses as a percentage of net revenue decreased by 1.0% to 19.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2019, from 20.3% for the three months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to our ability to leverage our marketing and communication costs across an increasing revenue base.

General and administrative. Our general and administrative expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2019 were \$13.6 million, an increase of \$3.5 million, or 34.3%, as compared to general and administrative expenses of \$10.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily due to increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation, in other general and administrative costs including professional fees, and in occupancy and depreciation of \$2.1 million, \$0.7 million, and \$0.3 million, respectively. In addition, there was an increase in contributions made in lieu of state income taxes to school sponsoring organizations from \$3.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 to \$4.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019. Our increases in employee compensation, occupancy and depreciation, and other general and administrative costs are primarily related to the Acquisition, including additional headcount, and office space in Indianapolis, Indiana. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net revenue increased by 0.5% to 7.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2019, from 6.5% for the three months ended September 30, 2018 due to the Orbis Education employee compensation and office space, partially offset by our ability to leverage our general and administrative expenses across an increasing revenue base.

Amortization of intangible assets. The amortization of intangible assets for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$2.2 million and is related to the Acquisition of Orbis Education, which resulted in the creation of certain identifiable intangible assets that will be amortized over their expected lives.

University related expenses. Our university related expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2018 were \$6.6 million. The expenses included in the three months ended September 30, 2018 are primarily due to the Company's Board of Directors modifying the vesting condition for certain restricted stock awards for personnel that would be transferred to GCU, which resulted in \$7.9 million of share-based compensation expense, and employer taxes

of \$0.2 million on such modification. This amount was partially offset by reversals of employee related liabilities of \$1.5 million for employees that transferred to GCU that were not part of the transferred assets for the Transaction.

Loss on transaction. The loss on transaction for the three months ended September 30, 2018 was \$15.6 million due to transaction costs of \$3.0 million and an asset impairment of \$3.0 million. In addition, the Company transferred to GCU cash of \$9.6 million to fund a deferred compensation plan for GCU employees who were formerly GCE employees that held unvested restricted stock of GCE that was forfeited upon the Transaction.

Interest income on Secured Note. Interest income on the Secured Note (as defined below) for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$16.2 million, an increase of \$3.0 million, or 22.3%, as compared to \$13.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. As a result of the Transaction with GCU on July 1, 2018, the Company recognizes interest income on its Secured Note with GCU, earning interest at 6%, with monthly interest payments. The increase over the prior year is primarily due to an increase in the principal balance of the Secured Note for capital expenditure loans made to GCU.

Interest expense. Interest expense was \$2.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019, an increase of \$2.3 million, as compared to interest expense of \$0.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. The increase in interest expense is primarily due to the Acquisition of Orbis Education, which resulted in a \$190.1 million increase in our outstanding credit facility, a slightly higher interest rate on the credit facility, additional fees on the revolving credit facility, and lower capitalized interest as compared to the same period in the prior year.

Investment interest and other. Investment interest and other for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$0.3 million, an decrease of \$0.1 million, as compared to \$0.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2018.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$15.2 million, an increase of \$6.5 million, or 74.0%, as compared to income tax expense of \$8.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018. This increase is the result of an increase in our taxable income between periods and a slight increase in our effective tax rate. Our effective tax rate was 20.7% during the third quarter of 2019 compared to 20.5% during the third quarter of 2018. The increase in the effective tax rate resulted from lower excess tax benefits of \$0.4 million in the third quarter of 2019 as compared to \$1.4 million in the same period in 2018. The inclusion of excess tax benefits and deficiencies as a component of our income tax expense will increase volatility within our provision for income taxes as the amount of excess tax benefits or deficiencies from share-based compensation awards are dependent on our stock price at the date the restricted awards vest, our stock price on the date an option is exercised, and the quantity of options exercised. Our restricted stock vests in March each year so the favorable benefit will primarily impact the first quarter each year. Our contributions made in lieu of state income taxes to school sponsoring organizations increased slightly from \$3.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 to \$4.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2019.

Net income. Our net income for the three months ended September 30, 2019 was \$58.2 million, an increase of \$24.4 million, or 72.3%, as compared to \$33.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018, due to the factors discussed above.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2019 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018

Service revenue and University related revenue. Our service revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$565.4 million compared to service revenue and university related revenue of \$155.5 million and \$512.5 million, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. Commencing July 1, 2018, the results of our operations no longer include the operations of the University but rather reflect the operations of the Company as a service/technology provider with 22 university partners. As a service provider to GCU, our largest university partner, the Company receives, as service revenue, 60% of GCU's tuition and fee revenue and no longer has university related revenue, thus resulting in the decrease from the prior period. The sum of service revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2018 of \$155.5 million and 60% of university related revenue for the six months ended June 30, 2018 of \$307.5 million, totals \$463.0 million. The 22.1% increase year over year in comparable service fee revenue was primarily due to our Orbis Education acquisition on January 22, 2019 and an increase in GCU enrollments between years

of 6.2%. Partner enrollments in programs serviced by Orbis Education at September 30, 2019 was 3,975. The Orbis Education university partnership agreements generally generate a higher revenue per student than our agreement with GCU as these agreements generally have a higher percentage of service revenue, the partners have higher tuition rates than GCU and the majority of these students are studying in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program so these students take on average more credits per semester. We are also seeing an increase in revenue per student from our GCU partnership resulting from the increase in residential students.

Technology and academic services. Our technology and academic services expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 were \$65.4 million, an increase of \$32.9 million, or 101.3%, as compared to technology and academic services expenses of \$32.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements, which require certain technology and academic services including headcount, as well as the use of classroom facilities and equipment to be provided to each university partner. These costs along with the increased cost to service GCU resulted in increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation, in occupancy and depreciation including lease expenses, and in technology and academic supply costs of \$26.0 million, \$4.6 million, and \$2.3 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to the increase in the number of staff needed to support our 22 university partners, and their increased enrollment growth, tenure based salary adjustments and an increase in benefit costs between years. Our technology and academic services expenses as a percentage of as adjusted non-GAAP net revenue increased 4.6% to 11.6% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, from 7.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements acquired requiring a higher level of technology and academic services than our agreement with GCU.

Counseling services and support. Our counseling services and support expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 were \$163.6 million, an increase of \$10.9 million, or 7.2%, as compared to counseling services and support expenses of \$152.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education university partnership agreements, which require certain counseling services and support, principally headcount to be provided to each university partner. These costs along with the increased cost to service GCU resulted in increases in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation, in other counseling services and support related expenses, and in depreciation, amortization and occupancy costs of \$8.5 million, \$1.8 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. The increase in employee compensation and related expenses is primarily due to increased headcount to support our university partners, and their increased enrollment growth, tenure-based salary adjustments and an increase in benefit costs between years. The increase in other counseling services is primarily the result of increased travel costs to service our 22 university partners. Our counseling services and support expenses as a percentage of as adjusted non-GAAP net revenue decreased 4.1% to 28.9% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, from 33.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to the counseling services and support costs to service the Orbis Education partnership agreements being less as a percentage of revenue than the costs to service the GCU agreement and due to our ability to leverage our counseling services and support costs to service GCU across an increasing revenue base.

Marketing and communication. Our marketing and communication expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 were \$109.0 million, an increase of \$18.8 million, or 20.9%, as compared to marketing and communication expenses of \$90.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily attributable to the Orbis Education partnership agreements, which require marketing of the university partners' programs. These costs along with the increased cost to market GCU's programs resulted in increased advertising, and in employee compensation and related expenses including share-based compensation of \$16.8 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. Our marketing and communication expenses as a percentage of as adjusted non-GAAP net revenue decreased slightly by 0.2% to 19.3% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, from 19.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 primarily due to our ability to leverage our advertising costs across an increasing revenue base.

General and administrative. Our general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 were \$34.2 million, an increase of \$10.9 million, or 46.8%, as compared to general and administrative expenses of \$23.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increase was primarily due to increases in employee compensation including share-based compensation, in professional fees, in other general and administrative costs, and in

occupancy and depreciation of \$5.2 million, \$2.7 million, \$2.1 million, and \$0.9 million, respectively. Our increases in employee compensation, occupancy, depreciation, and other general and administrative costs are primarily related to the Acquisition, including additional headcount, and office space in Indianapolis, Indiana. Our increase in professional fees is primarily related to a payment made to an outside provider that assisted us in obtaining a state tax refund with a favorable tax impact of \$5.9 million in the first quarter of 2019 and higher legal fees. Our increase in other general and administrative costs is primarily due to increases in travel costs and increases in contributions made in lieu of state income taxes to school sponsoring organizations from \$3.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 to \$4.0 million for the nine months ended in September 30, 2019. Our general and administrative expenses as a percentage of as adjusted non-GAAP net revenue increased by 1.0% to 6.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, from 5.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 due to the increase in professional fees, employee compensation, and office space for Orbis Education, partially offset by our ability to leverage our general and administrative expenses across an increasing revenue base.

Amortization of intangible assets. The amortization of intangible assets for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$6.0 million and is related to the Acquisition of Orbis Education, which resulted in the creation of certain identifiable intangible assets that will be amortized over their expected lives.

University related expenses. Our university related expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 were \$173.7 million. These expenses represent the costs transferred to the university for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and in the three months ended September 30, 2018 are primarily due to the Company's Board of Directors modifying the vesting condition for certain restricted stock awards for personnel that would be transferred to GCU, which resulted in \$7.9 million of share-based compensation expense, and employer taxes of \$0.2 million on such modification. This amount was partially offset by reversals of employee related liabilities totaling \$1.5 million that were not part of the transferred asset for the Transaction.

Loss on transaction. The loss on transaction for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$4.0 million due to transaction costs related to the Acquisition of Orbis Education. Our loss on transaction expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was \$17.6 million due to transactions costs of \$5.0 million and an asset impairment of \$3.0 million. In addition, the Company transferred to GCU cash of \$9.6 million to fund a deferred compensation plan for GCU employees who were formerly GCE employees and that held unvested restricted stock of GCE that was forfeited upon the Transaction.

Interest income on Secured Note. Interest income on the Secured Note (as defined below) for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$44.4 million, an increase of \$31.2 million, as compared to interest income on Secured Note of \$13.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increased as a result of the Transaction with GCU that commenced on July 1, 2018, the Company recognizes interest income on its Secured Note with GCU including borrowings made for capital expenditures, earning interest at 6%, with monthly interest payments.

Interest expense. Interest expense was \$8.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019, an increase of \$7.4 million, as compared to interest expense of \$1.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The increase in interest expense is primarily due to the Acquisition of Orbis Education, which resulted in a \$190.1 million increase in our outstanding credit facility, a slightly higher interest rate on the credit facility, additional fees on the revolving credit facility, and lower capitalized interest as compared to the same period in the prior year.

Investment interest and other. Investment interest and other for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$4.0 million, an increase of \$1.1 million, as compared to \$2.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Income tax expense. Income tax expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$40.8 million, an increase of \$1.1 million, or 2.6%, as compared to income tax expense of \$39.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. This increase is the result of an increase in our taxable income between periods, offset by a decrease in our effective tax rate. Our effective tax rate was 18.3% during the nine months ended September 30, 2019 compared to 20.6% during the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The decrease in the effective tax rate resulted from an agreement with the Arizona Department of Revenue regarding previously filed refund claims related to income tax obligations for prior calendar years, which resulted in a favorable tax impact of \$5.9 million recorded as a discrete

tax item in the first quarter of 2019. In addition, the effective tax rate was favorably impacted by a law change with respect to Arizona state taxes, partially offset by a slight decrease in excess tax benefits to \$7.2 million from \$7.9 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The inclusion of excess tax benefits and deficiencies as a component of our income tax expense increases the volatility within our provision for income taxes as the amount of excess tax benefits or deficiencies from share-based compensation awards are dependent on our stock price at the date the restricted awards vest, our stock price on the date an option is exercised, and the quantity of options exercised. Our restricted stock vests in March each year so the favorable benefit will primarily impact the first quarter each year.

Net income. Our net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$182.5 million, an increase of \$29.0 million, or 18.9% as compared to \$153.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, due to the factors discussed above.

Seasonality

Our net revenue and operating results normally fluctuate as a result of seasonal variations in our business, principally due to changes in our university partners' enrollment. Our partners' enrollment varies as a result of new enrollments, graduations, and student attrition. Revenues in the summer months (May through August) are lower primarily due to the majority of GCU's traditional ground students not attending courses during the summer months, which affects our results for our second and third fiscal quarters. Since a significant amount of our costs are fixed, the lower revenue resulting from the decreased summer enrollment has historically contributed to lower operating margins during those periods. Partially offsetting this summer effect has been the sequential quarterly increase in enrollments that has occurred as a result of the traditional fall school start. This increase in enrollments also has occurred in the first quarter, corresponding to calendar year matriculation. Thus, we experience higher net revenue in the fourth quarter due to its overlap with the semester encompassing the traditional fall school start and in the first quarter due to its overlap with the first semester of the calendar year. A portion of our expenses do not vary proportionately with these fluctuations in service revenue, resulting in higher operating income in the first and fourth quarters relative to other quarters. We expect quarterly fluctuation in operating results to continue as a result of these seasonal patterns.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity. During 2019, we financed our Acquisition of Orbis Education for \$361.2 million, net of cash acquired, from an increase in our credit facility of \$190.1 million and the use of \$171.1 million of operating cash on hand. Our unrestricted cash and cash equivalents and investments were \$133.9 million at September 30, 2019. As of September 30, 2019, we had \$300,000 of restricted cash and cash equivalents, for pledged collateral for a site lease.

Concurrent with the closing of the Acquisition, we entered into an amended and restated credit agreement dated January 22, 2019 and two related amendments dated January 31, 2019 and February 1, 2019, respectively, that together provided a credit facility of \$325.0 million comprised of a term loan facility of \$243.8 million and a revolving credit facility of \$81.3 million, both with a five-year maturity date. The term facility is subject to quarterly amortization of principal, commencing with the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2019, in equal installments of 5% of the principal amount of the term facility per quarter. Both the term loan and revolver have monthly interest payments currently at 30-Day LIBOR plus an applicable margin of 2%. The proceeds of the term loan, together with \$6.3 million drawn under the revolver and cash on hand, were used to pay the purchase price in the Acquisition. Concurrent with the entry into the amended and restated credit agreement and the completion of the Acquisition, we repaid our existing term loan of \$59.9 million and our cash collateral of \$61.7 million was released.

The Company entered into a further amendment to the credit facility on October 31, 2019. This amendment increased the revolving commitment by \$68.8 million to \$150.0 million, while reducing the term loan by the same \$68.8 million to \$150.6 million. Our consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2019 was adjusted to reflect the amounts owed per the terms of the credit facility. The Company elected to repay the \$68.8 million revolver balance on

November 1, 2019. Additionally, the Company elected to repay the outstanding revolver as of September 30, 2019 of \$26,250 in October of 2019.

On July 1, 2018, in consideration for the transfer of assets under the Asset Purchase Agreement, we received a secured note from GCU in the initial principal amount of \$870.1 million (the "Secured Note"). The Secured Note contains customary commercial credit terms, including affirmative and negative covenants applicable to GCU, and provides that the Secured Note bears interest at an annual rate of 6.0%, has a maturity date of June 30, 2025, and is secured by all of the assets of GCU. The Secured Note provides for GCU to make interest only payments during the term, with all principal and accrued and unpaid interest due at maturity and also provides that we will loan additional amounts to GCU to fund approved capital expenditures during the first three years of the term. Funding for capital expenditures for GCU since July 1, 2018 totals \$139.8 million as of September 30, 2019. GCU repaid \$60.0 million during the third quarter of 2019 and another \$40.0 million in October, further reducing total capital expenditure borrowings to GCU to \$99.8 million as of October 31, 2019.

Based on our current level of operations and anticipated growth, we believe that our cash flow from operations and other sources of liquidity, including cash and cash equivalents and our revolving line of credit, will provide adequate funds for ongoing operations, planned capital expenditures, and working capital requirements for at least the next 24 months.

Share Repurchase Program

Our Board of Directors has authorized the Company to repurchase up to an aggregate of \$175.0 million of our common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The current expiration date on the repurchase authorization by our Board of Directors is December 31, 2020. Repurchases occur at the Company's discretion.

Under our share purchase authorization, we may purchase shares in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant.

During the three months ended September 30, 2019, 64,335 shares of common stock were repurchased by the Company. At September 30, 2019, there remains \$70.8 million available under our share repurchase authorization. Subsequent to September 30, 2019, the Company repurchased 77,622 shares of common stock at an aggregate cost of \$7.7 million.

Cash Flows

Operating Activities. Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 was \$195.1 million as compared to \$96.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The increase in cash generated from operating activities between the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and the nine months ended September 30, 2019 is primarily due to the increase in net income and changes in other working capital such as receivables from our university partners, accounts payable and accrued liabilities as a result of the change from being the owner-operator of GCU to being a service provider to 22 university partners. As a service provider, we generally receive our service fees from our university partners in arrears.

Investing Activities. Net cash used in investing activities was \$431.1 million and \$215.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Our cash used in investing activities was primarily related to the Acquisition, the funding of capital expenditures to GCU, and the liquidation of short-term investments and capital expenditures. We paid \$361.2 million, net of cash acquired, to acquire Orbis Education on January 22, 2019. Funding to GCU for capital expenditures during the first nine months of 2019 totaled \$109.8 million, net of repayments made by GCU of \$60.0 million in the third quarter of 2019. Proceeds from investments, net of purchases of short-term investments, was \$55.3 million and \$19.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Capital expenditures were \$15.2 million and \$90.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and 2018,

respectively. During the nine-month period for 2019, capital expenditures primarily consisted of leasehold improvements and equipment for new partner locations, internally developed software, as well as purchases of computer equipment, other internal use software projects and furniture and equipment to support our increasing employee headcount. During the nine-month period for 2018, capital expenditures primarily consisted of the University’s ground campus construction projects as well as purchases of computer equipment, other internal use software projects and furniture and equipment to support our increasing employee headcount.

Financing Activities. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$174.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. Net cash used in financing activities was \$22.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. During the nine-month period for 2019, \$270.0 million of proceeds was drawn on the credit facility, and the term loan balance of the prior credit agreement of \$59.9 million was repaid along with \$12.1 million of principal payments on the new credit facility. In addition, \$2.4 million of debt issuance costs were incurred on the new credit facility and \$8.1 million was used to purchase common shares withheld in lieu of income taxes resulting from the vesting of restricted share awards and \$17.3 million was used to purchase treasury stock in accordance with the Company’s share repurchase program. Proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$3.7 million were received in the nine months ended September 30, 2019. During the nine-month period for 2018, \$15.2 million was used to purchase common shares withheld in lieu of income taxes resulting the vesting of restricted share awards and \$4.1 million was used to purchase treasury stock in accordance with the Company’s share repurchase program. Principal payments on notes payable and capital leases totaled \$5.1 million, partially offset by proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$2.1 million.

Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth, as of September 30, 2019, the aggregate amounts of GCE’s significant contractual obligations and commitments with definitive payment terms due in each of the periods presented (in millions). Less than one year amounts represent payments due from October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		Less than 1 Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	More than 5 Years
Long term notes payable	\$ 256.4	\$ 20.5	\$ 66.3	\$ 66.3	\$ 103.3
Lease liabilities	28.1	0.5	6.0	6.5	15.1
Purchase obligations ⁽¹⁾	3.4	1.0	1.9	0.5	—
Total contractual obligations	<u>\$ 287.9</u>	<u>\$ 22.0</u>	<u>\$ 74.2</u>	<u>\$ 73.3</u>	<u>\$ 118.4</u>

(1) The purchase obligation amounts include expected spending by period under contracts for GCE that were in effect at September 30, 2019.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have had or are reasonably likely to have a material current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Impact of inflation. We believe that inflation has not had a material impact on our results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2019 or 2018. There can be no assurance that future inflation will not have an adverse impact on our operating results and financial condition.

Market risk. On February 27, 2013, we entered into an interest rate corridor to manage our 30-Day LIBOR interest exposure from the variable rate debt, which debt matures in December of 2019. The corridor instrument, which hedges variable interest rate risk starting March 1, 2013 through December 20, 2019 with a notional amount of \$55.0 million as of September 30, 2019, permits us to hedge our interest rate risk at several thresholds. Under this arrangement, in addition to the credit spread we will pay variable interest rates based on the 30-Day LIBOR rates monthly until that

index reaches 1.5%. If 30-Day LIBOR is equal to 1.5% through 3.0%, we will continue to pay 1.5%. If 30-Day LIBOR exceeds 3.0%, we will pay actual 30-Day LIBOR less 1.5%.

Except with respect to the foregoing, we have no derivative financial instruments or derivative commodity instruments. We invest cash in excess of current operating requirements in short-term certificates of deposit and money market instruments in multiple financial institutions.

Interest rate risk. We manage interest rate risk through the instruments noted above and by investing excess funds in cash equivalents, such as municipal mutual funds tied to various market indices, commercial paper rated at A1 or higher, certificates of deposit, and municipal bonds with a BBB rating or higher bearing variable interest rates, or individual bond coupon rates. Our future interest income may fall short of expectations due to changes in interest rates or we may suffer losses in principal if we are forced to sell securities that have declined in market value due to changes in interest rates. At September 30, 2019, a 10% increase or decrease in interest rates would not have a material impact on our future earnings, fair values, or cash flows. For information regarding our variable rate debt, see “Market risk” above.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective, as of September 30, 2019, in ensuring that material information relating to us required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including its principal executive officer or officers and principal financial officer or officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

Based on an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (who is our principal executive officer) and our Chief Financial Officer (who is our principal financial officer), there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

None.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in the “Risk Factors” section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

None.

Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

Our Board of Directors has authorized the Company to repurchase up to an aggregate of \$175.0 million of common stock, from time to time, depending on market conditions and other considerations. The current expiration date on the repurchase authorization is December 31, 2020. Repurchases occur at the Company's discretion. Repurchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to the applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The amount and timing of future share repurchases, if any, will be made as market and business conditions warrant. During the three months ended September 30, 2019, we repurchased 64,335 shares of common stock. At September 30, 2019, there remains \$70.8 million available under our share repurchase authorization.

The following table sets forth our share repurchases of common stock and our share repurchases in lieu of taxes, which are not included in the repurchase plan totals as they were approved in conjunction with the restricted share awards, during each period in the third quarter of fiscal 2019:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program	Maximum Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program
Share Repurchases				
July 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019	10,000	\$ 116.25	—	\$ 76,600,000
August 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ 76,600,000
September 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019	54,335	\$ 106.56	—	\$ 70,800,000
Total	64,335	\$ 108.07	—	\$ 70,800,000
Tax Withholdings				
July 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ —
August 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ —
September 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ —
Total	—	\$ —	—	\$ —

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Method of Filing</u>
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (as amended).	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 20, 2019.
3.2	Third Amended and Restated Bylaws.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 29, 2014.
4.1	Specimen of Stock Certificate.	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on September 29, 2008.
10.18	Second Amendment, dated October 31, 2019 to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated January 22, 2019 by and among Grand Canyon Education, Inc., Bank of America, N.A., and the other parties named therein.	Filed herewith.
31.1	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.	Filed herewith.
31.2	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.	Filed herewith.
32.1	Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. ††	Filed herewith.
32.2	Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. ††	Filed herewith.
101	The following financial statements from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, formatted in Inline XBRL: (i) Consolidated Income Statements, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iii) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity, (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (vi) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements tagged as blocks of text and including detailed tags.	Filed herewith.
104	The cover page from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, formatted in Inline XBRL (included as Exhibit 101).	Filed herewith.

†† This certification is being furnished solely to accompany this report pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, and is not being filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filings of the University, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

Date: November 6, 2019

By: /s/ Daniel E. Bachus
Daniel E. Bachus
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

SECOND AMENDMENT

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT (this "Amendment") dated as of October 31, 2019 to the Credit Agreement referenced below is by and among GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Borrower"), the Guarantors identified on the signature pages hereto, the Lenders identified on the signature pages hereto and BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., in its capacity as Administrative Agent (in such capacity, the "Administrative Agent").

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, revolving credit and term loan facilities have been extended to the Borrower pursuant to the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (as amended, modified, supplemented, increased and extended from time to time, the "Credit Agreement") dated as of January 22, 2019 by and among the Borrower, the Guarantors identified therein, the Lenders identified therein and the Administrative Agent; and

WHEREAS, the Borrower has requested certain modifications to the Credit Agreement and the Lenders have agreed to the requested modifications on the terms set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the premises and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Defined Terms. Capitalized terms used herein but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings provided to such terms in the Credit Agreement.

2. Conversion of a Portion of the Term Loan into Revolving Commitments.

2.1 Immediately prior to the effectiveness of this Amendment, the Outstanding Amount of the Term Loan is \$219,375,000.

2.2 Concurrent with the effectiveness of this Amendment, (a) the Aggregate Revolving Commitments shall be increased by \$68,750,000 to \$150,000,000, (b) the Revolving Commitment of each Lender set forth on Schedule 2.01 is amended to read as set forth opposite such Lender's name on Exhibit A hereto, (c) \$68,750,000 of the Outstanding Amount of the Term Loan shall be converted into Revolving Loans and shall be deemed to be outstanding as Revolving Loans for all purposes of the Credit Agreement and the other Loan Documents (with such conversion applied to the Outstanding Amount of Term Loan held by each Lender according to such Lender's Applicable Percentage of the Outstanding Amount of the Term Loan), (d) such conversion of a portion of the Term Loan to Revolving Loans shall not constitute a repayment of the converted amount of the Term Loan, (e) for the avoidance of doubt, such conversion of a portion of the Term Loan to Revolving Loans shall not be subject to the requirements of Section 3.05 of the Credit Agreement and (f) the Outstanding Amount of the Term Loan after giving effect to such conversion shall be \$150,625,000.

3. Amendments to Credit Agreement. Subject to the terms and conditions herein, the Credit Agreement is hereby amended as follows:

3.1 Section 1.01 is amended to add the following defined terms in their proper alphabetical order:

“Relevant Governmental Body” means the Federal Reserve Board and/or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, or a committee officially endorsed or convened by the Federal Reserve Board and/or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the purpose of recommending a benchmark rate to replace LIBOR in loan agreements similar to this Agreement.

“SOFR” with respect to any day means the secured overnight financing rate published for such day by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as the administrator of the benchmark (or a successor administrator) on the Federal Reserve Bank of New York’s website (or any successor source) and, in each case, that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body.

“SOFR-Based Rate” means SOFR or Term SOFR.

“Term SOFR” means the forward-looking term rate for any period that is approximately (as determined by the Administrative Agent as long as any of the Interest Period options set forth in the definition of “Interest Period” and that is based on SOFR and that has been selected or recommended by the Relevant Governmental Body, in each case as published on an information service as selected by the Administrative Agent from time to time in its reasonable discretion.

3.2 The definition of “Aggregate Revolving Commitments” in Section 1.01 is amended to read as follows:

“Aggregate Revolving Commitments” means the Revolving Commitments of all the Lenders. The amount of the Aggregate Revolving Commitments in effect on the effective date of the Second Amendment to this Agreement is ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$150,000,000.00).

3.3 The definition of “LIBOR Successor Rate Conforming Changes” in Section 1.01 is amended to read as follows:

“LIBOR Successor Rate Conforming Changes” means, with respect to any proposed LIBOR Successor Rate, any conforming changes to the definition of Base Rate, Interest Period, timing and frequency of determining rates and making payments of interest and other technical, administrative or operational matters as may be appropriate, in the discretion of the Administrative Agent, to reflect the adoption and implementation of such LIBOR Successor Rate and to permit the administration thereof by the Administrative Agent in a manner substantially consistent with market practice (or, if the Administrative Agent determines that adoption of any portion of such market practice is not administratively feasible or that no market practice for the administration of such LIBOR Successor Rate exists, in such other manner of administration as the Administrative Agent determines is reasonably necessary in connection with the administration of this Agreement).

3.4 In Section 2.06(b), the reference to “\$125,000,000” is amended to read “\$225,000,000”.

3.5 Section 2.07(c)(i) is amended to read as follows:

(i) on the last day of each calendar quarter, commencing on December 31, 2019, the Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the Term Loan in an amount equal to \$8,368,055.56 and

3.6 Clause (ii) of the first paragraph of Section 3.07 is amended to read as follows:

(ii) the administrator of the LIBOR Screen Rate or a Governmental Authority having jurisdiction over the Administrative Agent has made a public statement identifying a specific date after which LIBOR or the LIBOR Screen Rate shall no longer be made available, or used for determining the interest rate of loans, provided that, at the time of such statement, there is no successor administrator that is satisfactory to the Administrative Agent, that will continue to provide LIBOR after such specific date (such specific date, the "Scheduled Unavailability Date"); or

3.7 The second paragraph of Section 3.07 is amended to read as follows:

then, reasonably promptly after such determination by the Administrative Agent or receipt by the Administrative Agent of such notice, as applicable, the Administrative Agent and the Borrower may amend this Agreement to replace LIBOR with (x) one or more SOFR-Based Rates or (y) another alternate benchmark rate giving due consideration to any evolving or then existing convention for similar U.S. dollar denominated syndicated credit facilities for such alternative benchmarks and, in each case, including any mathematical or other adjustments to such benchmark giving due consideration to any evolving or then existing convention for similar U.S. dollar denominated syndicated credit facilities for such benchmarks, which adjustment or method for calculating such adjustment shall be published on an information service as selected by the Administrative Agent from time to time in its reasonable discretion and may be periodically updated (the "Adjustment," and any such proposed rate, a "LIBOR Successor Rate"), and any such amendment shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on the fifth Business Day after the Administrative Agent shall have posted such proposed amendment to all Lenders and the Borrower unless, prior to such time, Lenders comprising the Required Lenders have delivered to the Administrative Agent written notice that such Required Lenders (A) in the case of an amendment to replace LIBOR with a rate described in clause (x), object to the Adjustment; or (B) in the case of an amendment to replace LIBOR with a rate described in clause (y), object to such amendment; provided that for the avoidance of doubt, in the case of clause (A), the Required Lenders shall not be entitled to object to any SOFR-Based Rate contained in any such amendment. Such LIBOR Successor Rate shall be applied in a manner consistent with market practice; provided that to the extent such market practice is not administratively feasible for the Administrative Agent, such LIBOR Successor Rate shall be applied in a manner as otherwise reasonably determined by the Administrative Agent.

3.8 The following paragraph is added to the end of Section 3.07 and shall constitute a new fifth paragraph thereto:

In connection with the implementation of a LIBOR Successor Rate, the Administrative Agent will have the right to make LIBOR Successor Rate Conforming Changes from time to time and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or in any other Loan Document, any amendments implementing such LIBOR Successor Rate Conforming Changes will become effective without any further action or consent of any other party to this Agreement.

3.9 In Section 8.02(o)(ii), the reference to “\$200 million” is amended to read “\$300 million”.

3.10 A new Section 11.22 is added to read as follows:

11.22 Acknowledgement Regarding Any Supported QFCs.

To the extent that the Loan Documents provide support, through a guarantee or otherwise, for any Swap Contract or any other agreement or instrument that is a QFC (such support, “QFC Credit Support”, and each such QFC, a “Supported QFC”), the parties acknowledge and agree as follows with respect to the resolution power of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (together with the regulations promulgated thereunder, the “U.S. Special Resolution Regimes”) in respect of such Supported QFC and QFC Credit Support (with the provisions below applicable notwithstanding that the Loan Documents and any Supported QFC may in fact be stated to be governed by the laws of the State of New York and/or of the United States or any other state of the United States):

(a) In the event a Covered Entity that is party to a Supported QFC (each, a “Covered Party”) becomes subject to a proceeding under a U.S. Special Resolution Regime, the transfer of such Supported QFC and the benefit of such QFC Credit Support (and any interest and obligation in or under such Supported QFC and such QFC Credit Support, and any rights in property securing such Supported QFC or such QFC Credit Support) from such Covered Party will be effective to the same extent as the transfer would be effective under the U.S. Special Resolution Regime if the Supported QFC and such QFC Credit Support (and any such interest, obligation and rights in property) were governed by the laws of the United States or a state of the United States. In the event a Covered Party or a BHC Act Affiliate of a Covered Party becomes subject to a proceeding under a U.S. Special Resolution Regime, Default Rights under the Loan Documents that might otherwise apply to such Supported QFC or any QFC Credit Support that may be exercised against such Covered Party are permitted to be exercised to no greater extent than such Default Rights could be exercised under the U.S. Special Resolution Regime if the Supported QFC and the Loan Documents were governed by the laws of the United States or a state of the United States. Without limitation of the foregoing, it is understood and agreed that rights and remedies of the parties with respect to a Defaulting Lender shall in no event affect the rights of any Covered Party with respect to a Supported QFC or any QFC Credit Support.

(b) As used in this Section 11.22, the following terms have the following meanings:

“BHC Act Affiliate” of a party means an “affiliate” (as such term is defined under, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 U.S.C. 1841(k)) of such party.

“Covered Entity” means any of the following: (i) a “covered entity” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. § 252.82(b); (ii) a “covered bank” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12

C.F.R. § 47.3(b); or (iii) a “covered FSI” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. § 382.2(b).

“Default Right” has the meaning assigned to that term in, and shall be interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. §§ 252.81, 47.2 or 382.1, as applicable.

“QFC” has the meaning assigned to the term “qualified financial contract” in, and shall be interpreted in accordance with, 12 U.S.C. 5390(c)(8)(D).

4. Amendment to Security Agreement. Section 16 of the Security Agreement is amended to read as follows:

16. Governing Law; Submission to Jurisdiction; Venue; WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL; Acknowledgement Regarding any Supported QFCs. The terms of Sections 11.14, 11.15 and 11.22 of the Credit Agreement with respect to governing law, submission to jurisdiction, venue, waiver of jury trial and acknowledgement regarding any Supported QFCs are incorporated herein by reference, *mutatis mutandis*, and the parties hereto agree to such terms.

5. Conditions Precedent. This Amendment shall become effective as of the date hereof upon satisfaction of each of the following conditions precedent:

5.1 Amendment. Receipt by the Administrative Agent of executed counterparts of this Amendment properly executed by a Responsible Officer of the Borrower, the Guarantors, each Lender and the Administrative Agent.

5.2 Authorization. Receipt by the Administrative Agent of a certificate of each Loan Party signed by a Responsible Officer of such Loan Party certifying and attaching resolutions adopted by the board of directors (or equivalent governing body) of each Loan Party approving this Amendment and the transactions contemplated hereby, in form and substance satisfactory to the Administrative Agent.

5.3 Loan Notice. Receipt by the Administrative Agent of a Loan Notice for Revolving Loans in an amount equal to the converted amount of the Term Loan in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.02(a) of the Credit Agreement.

6. Amendment is a “Loan Document”. This Amendment is a Loan Document and all references to a “Loan Document” in the Credit Agreement and the other Loan Documents (including all such references in the representations and warranties in the Credit Agreement and the other Loan Documents) shall be deemed to include this Amendment.

7. Representations and Warranties; No Default. Each Loan Party represents and warrants to the Administrative Agent and each Lender that after giving effect to this Amendment (a) the representations and warranties of each Loan Party contained in Article VI of the Credit Agreement and in each other Loan Document are true and correct all material respects, except for any representation and warranty that is qualified by materiality or reference to Material Adverse Effect which such representation and warranty shall be true and correct in all respects, as of the date hereof, except to the extent that such representations and warranties specifically refer to an earlier date, in which case they shall be true and correct as of such earlier date and (b) no Default exists as of the date hereof.

8. Reaffirmation of Obligations. Each Loan Party (a) acknowledges and consents to all of the terms and conditions of this Amendment, (b) affirms all of its obligations under the Loan Documents and (c) agrees that this Amendment does not operate to reduce or discharge such Loan Party's obligations under the Loan Documents.

9. Reaffirmation of Security Interests. Each Loan Party (a) affirms that each of the Liens granted in or pursuant to the Loan Documents are valid and subsisting and (b) agrees that this Amendment does not in any manner impair or otherwise adversely affect any of the Liens granted in or pursuant to the Loan Documents.

10. No Other Changes. Except as modified hereby, all of the terms and provisions of the Loan Documents shall remain in full force and effect.

11. Counterparts; Delivery. This Amendment may be executed in counterparts (and by different parties hereto in different counterparts), each of which shall constitute an original, but all of which when taken together shall constitute a single contract. Delivery of an executed counterpart of this Amendment by fax transmission or e-mail transmission (e.g., "pdf" or "tif") shall be effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart of this Amendment.

12. Governing Law. This Amendment shall be deemed to be a contract made under, and for all purposes shall be construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereto has caused a counterpart of this Second Amendment to be duly executed and delivered as of the date first above written.

BORROWER: GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC., a Delaware corporation

By: /s/ Daniel E. Bachus
Name: Daniel E. Bachus
Title: Chief Financial Officer

GUARANTOR: ORBIS EDUCATION SERVICES, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company

By: /s/ Daniel E. Bachus
Name: Daniel E. Bachus
Title: Secretary and Treasurer

[SIGNATURE PAGES CONTINUE]

SECOND AMENDMENT TO CREDIT AGREEMENT
GRAND CANYON EDUCATION, INC.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AGENT: BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., as Administrative Agent

By: /s/ Linda Lov
Name: Linda Lov
Title: Assistant Vice President

LENDERS: BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., as a Lender, L/C Issuer and Swing Line Lender

By: /s/ Alain Pelanne
Name: Alain Pelanne
Title: Vice President

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

By: /s/ Douglas Jorgensen
Name: Douglas Jorgensen
Title: Senior Vice President

BOKE, NA d/b/a BANK OF ARIZONA

By: /s/ Christine A. Nowaczyk
Name: Christine A. Nowaczyk
Title: Senior Vice President

ZIONS BANCORPORATION, N.A. d/b/a National Bank of Arizona

By: /s/ Sabina Aaronson
Name: Sabina Aaronson
Title: Vice President

UMB BANK, N.A.

By: /s/ Vincent P. Burke
Name: Vincent P. Burke
Title: Sr. Vice President

BANK OF THE WEST

By: /s/ David Scott
Name: David Scott
Title: Director

EXHIBIT A

Revolving Commitment after giving effect to Second Amendment to Credit Agreement

Lender	Revolving Commitment
Bank of America, N.A.	\$34,615,384.61
Wells Fargo Bank, National Association	\$34,615,384.61
BOKF, N.A.	\$23,076,923.08
Zions Bankcorporation, N.A.	\$23,076,923.08
UMB Bank, N.A.	\$23,076,923.08
Bank of the West	\$11,538,461.54
Total:	\$150,000,000.00

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a),
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Brian E. Mueller, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 of Grand Canyon Education, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 6, 2019

/s/ Brian E. Mueller

Brian E. Mueller
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a),
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Daniel E. Bachus, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending September 30, 2019 of Grand Canyon Education, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 6, 2019

/s/ Daniel E. Bachus

Daniel E. Bachus
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Brian E. Mueller, Chief Executive Officer, of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o); and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: November 6, 2019

/s/ Brian E. Mueller

Brian E. Mueller

Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10Q of Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Daniel E. Bachus, Chief Financial Officer, of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o); and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: November 6, 2019

/s/ Daniel E. Bachus

Daniel E. Bachus

Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
