Presentation

• Current enrollment trends
• Medium term enrollment projections
• Longer term enrollment projections
• Impacts of COVID-19 on college enrollments
Current Year Enrollment Trends

Summer & Fall 2020
Bakersfield College’s Enrollments Were Relatively Resilient in First Half of 2020-21

- According to the National Student Clearinghouse, community colleges saw an alarming 10.1% drop in enrollment in fall 2020 relative to fall 2019.
  - The rate at which graduating seniors were enrolling in community college was down particularly sharply at -22.7%.
- BC’s fall 2020 FTES was down 6%, much better than the overall national (-10%) or the state average (-11%) for CCCs.
- Given BC’s “summer surge” in enrollment our summer and fall enrollment numbers combined still showed a positive year-over-year enrollment growth of +1% going into spring.
Current Year Enrollment Trends

Spring 2021
Spring 2021 Enrollments & FTES

• Sharply down relative to a year ago
  • As of Monday (1/25) enrollments & headcount were down 15%
  • FTES was down 14%

• Spring 2021 Sees Growing Divide Among Students by Ethnicity
  • African American students’ FTES down 23%
  • Hispanic/Latino students’ FTES down 20%
  • White students’ FTES up +2%
  • Why the variability? We’ll delve into this further in the section on the impacts of COVID-19.
National & State Trends

• As of Friday the numbers of first-generation applicants and fee-waiver recipients each declined (-3% & -2%, respectively), despite an overall increase in applications of 1%.

• Larger and more selective institutions generally saw strong increases in applications while smaller & less selective institutions are seeing declines in applications.

• Applicants are also applying to more colleges this year (9% increase)

• SUNY system has seen an application decline this year of 20%, one of the largest annual decreases in the system’s 73-year history.

• The California State University system is down 5% on applications for freshmen and transfer students.

• Reported declines of 10% to 30% from various California community colleges; The RP Group currently conducting an enrollment survey.
Enrollment Bright Spots

- Older student enrollments
- Dual enrollment of high school students still a strength
  - Projecting that final numbers will be up based on sections being offered
- CARES Act funding
FTES up 9% for Adult Students 30+ Years Old

- 9% for Adult Students 30+ Years Old
- 9% - 11%
- 11% - 20%
- 20% - 24%
- 24% - 26%
- 26% - 30%

Percent Change in FTES from Previous Spring
Benefits of 8-week courses

• Flexible scheduling option
  • Adult learners can get skills and get back to work more quickly

• Simply offering a class in an eight week format yielded an average increase in student success of approximately 7%, after controlling for the influence of different course curricula, class formats, and instructors.

Exact Comparison: Within-Subjects t-test

8 week: 68.7%
16 week: 61.8%

$t(175) = 3.67, p < 0.001$
Demand for College from Adults in Region

• **Forty-six percent of adults in the Central Valley expressed an interest in enrolling in college**, especially Black and Latinx adults (72% and 65%, respectively).

• Associate’s degree attainment matches the statewide average, but bachelor’s degree attainment is nearly half the statewide average with dramatic differences by race and ethnicity.

• Only **8 percent of Latinx residents** hold a bachelor’s degree compared to **32 percent of Asian residents**.
Medium Term Enrollment Projections
Enrollment Headwinds: Drop in College-Going

- FAFSA application rates, a leading indicator of fall enrollment intentions, are showing sharp year-over-year declines (-10% nationally; -11% in California).
- There is a strong ethnic & socioeconomic element to who is not applying.

| % Change in FAFSA Completion Year-Over-Year by Selected Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| By Title I Eligibility | By Concentration of Students of Color | By Geographic Locale |
| Title I Eligible | Title I Ineligible | High Minority High Schools | Low Minority High Schools | City |
| -15.5% | -9.6% | -17.8% | -7.6% | -14.2% |
| | | | | Suburb |
| | | | | -9.9% |
| | | | | 12/25 |
| | | | | Town |
| | | | | -17.7% |
| | | | | 12/25 |
| | | | | Rural |
| | | | | -15.8% |
| | | | | 12/25 |
Longer Term
Graduating High School Classes Projected to Shrink

California High School Graduates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2017-18</td>
<td>438,739</td>
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</table>
Graduating Class Sizes Still Growing in Kern!
Impacts of COVID-19 on College Enrollment
Drops in enrollment for the rural or underserved areas are greater.

-10%  -5%

Rural /Underserved Areas
- Yes
- No
Not everyone has access to a stable internet speed. I live in a remote area where I do not have a fixed phone line. My wireless connection is good but sometimes drops signal. My worry is when I need to take a test. I typically take my test during my work hours on my lunch break” (March, 2020)

“I don’t have access to internet at my house and spectrum doesn’t offer service here. No service providers provide access at my address. I’ve also had to pitches a new faster computer to handle the confer zoom streams. It was a lot of money I had not planned on spending. I am having great difficulty finding a reliable internet connection since the library has been closed” (March, 2020)
Impact of COVID-19 on College Enrollment

• The pandemic’s impact has not been equally distributed. In the spring and fall of 2020, 1 in 3 Latinos and 1 in 4 Black Americans reported they had **canceled education plans or delayed enrollment**, compared with 1 in 6 White Americans.

• Among individuals who’ve lost their jobs or income, 2 in 5 say they plan to enroll in education or training in the next six months.

• Adult learners lack confidence. More than half identify **self-doubt** as a major barrier to pursuing more education.

• There are over 4 million Californians with some college but no degree who would benefit from going “Back to College”.

Q&A

Thank you!