The Inmate Scholars Program (ISP) has steadily grown since its inception in 2015. Even within just the past two years, the number of sections offered through the ISP has doubled, from 32 sections in Fall 2017 to 64 sections in Fall 2019 (see graph below). The majority of the section offerings are at Kern Valley State Prison and Corcoran State Prison (17 and 11 sections, respectively). In fact, Bakersfield College is currently partnering with 9 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
Moreover, the unduplicated headcount has increased, as well as, the number of enrollments within ISP has more than doubled in that same time period (note, Fall 2019 is a projection). Similarly, the number of faculty teaching Inmate Scholars has almost double (see graphs below).

Many of the 26 Inmate Scholars are getting close to completing their ADT in Communications. Seventeen Inmate Scholars graduated and participated in our first graduation ceremony in August 2019. We look forward for this to be an annual event for our ISP students.
Events and Actions Taken

- **Staffing**: With this growth in enrollment, the number of ISP faculty and staff has also grown. Nine new full-time faculty, hired for Fall 2019, will have their faculty load primarily dedicated to the teaching of classes inside the prisons. We have also added an educational advisor and a faculty director to the ISP, which will lead to greater program efficiencies and effectiveness.

- **Professional Development**: The ISP faculty and staff participated in full-day *Trauma Informed Workshop* put on by the McSilver Institute from New York University. Inmate Education faculty and staff from Cerro Coso and La Cuesta College also joined us in the Levan Center. The workshop dealt with ways to combat the extra stresses and added barriers that come with teaching inside prisons as well as strategies to build resiliency and keep from suffering from burnout and compassion fatigue.

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

- **Professional Development**: ISP Faculty and staff will participate in a two-day training on the challenges and the opportunities of teaching degree-completion courses inside the prisons. We will be collaborating with the CDCR for part of this training with the intention of fostering safe and positive teaching and learning environments for our faculty and our students.

- **Central Valley MCCF Closing**: The state of California has made the decision to close Central Valley MCCF. While this has the potential to limit the number of course sections the program offers, there is enough demand at other prison facilities that we can take the course sections that we were going to offer at Central Valley and distribute them to other facilities.

- **Predictive Loop Schedule**: Beginning in Spring 2020, ISP will implement a re-occurring six-semester long schedule of classes (aka Predictive Loop Schedule) that will that will give the students the opportunity of completing an ADT in both Communications and Psychology. ISP will pilot this Predictive Loop Schedule on at least one of the sixteen prison yards that we serve.

- **J-Pay Tablets**: In Fall 2019, we will be piloting the use of J-Pay tablets that will mimic the function and feel of online coursework. Our current plan is to use this added instructional methodology as a hybrid option in conjunction with face-to-face classes.

- **Culinary Arts Certificate Program**: Beginning in Fall 2019, ISP will restart the Culinary Arts Certificate program at McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility. Fifteen students will be selected to enter the 18-month program.

- **New MOUs**: ISP will be initiating new MOUs with the CDCR.

- **Technology Mediated Instruction Discussions with CDCR**: ISP will be initiating discussions with CDCR and individual prisons about the possibility of bringing more technology-mediated instruction inside the prisons.

- **Vocational Education Partnership with CDCR**: ISP is looking for ways to partner with the CDCR to bring expanded vocational options inside the prisons.