Online Initiatives:

Bakersfield College has experienced significant growth in online enrollment over the last year. In Fall 2016, BC reported a census day enrollment of 6,358. In Fall 2017, the census day enrollment was 7,309, which was an increase of almost 15% making online offerings one of the most significant areas of growth at Bakersfield College. During that same period of time, our fill rate rose from 66% to 69%, resulting in a positive impact of productivity. This overall growth is driven by two strategic growth initiatives related to online.

Expansion of Online Offerings:

Bakersfield College is investing online learning opportunities for our students. The practical result of this is an increase in the number of sections offered online. The strategy for growth has been guided by the following three constructs:

1. **Growth in the depth of offerings:** The depth of the online offerings at Bakersfield College is measured by the total number of sections offered. More specifically, depth can be determined by looking at the number of sections offered per course. For example, the History B17A course was offered in four sections in Fall 2016, but eight sections were offered in Fall 2017. The STDV B1 course grew from 13 to 17 sections over the same period. The overall number of sections offered online went from 131 in Fall 2016 to 172 in Fall 2017. Growth in the depth of our online offerings results in more students being able to complete critical courses.

![Number of Online Sections](image)

2. **Growth in the breadth of offerings:** The college is also focusing on growth in the breadth of our online offerings. Breadth is measured by the number of unique courses being offered online. In Fall 2016, BC offered 58 courses online. In Fall 2017, this number grew by 31% to 76 courses. In the Fall, the curriculum committee at Bakersfield College approved 80
additional courses to be offered online, which will have a significant impact on the breadth of offerings in the future.

3. **Strategic Growth:** Specific courses are being added to our online offerings which are designed to target strategic areas, including the completion of degrees or other programs online, or the alleviation of bottlenecks to student completion. Many of the 80 new courses which were approved for online offering in the Fall of 2017 were strategic additions, designed to complete general education patterns or make full degrees available online.

**Working Toward Online Degrees:**

The college is making steady progress toward online degrees. This fall, 5 programs were targeted on the basis of the readiness of their curriculum for online offerings, and the progress toward the end goal of having all courses for the program online.

The five programs are:

1. Philosophy
2. History
3. Political Science
4. Psychology
5. Sociology

The college is also working toward the offering of complete general education patterns online. Currently, all but two of these requirements is met online. The college will continue to work with faculty to explore the possibility of offering these remaining courses in an online format. Our future participation in the Online Education Initiative may also open avenues for students to complete courses that Bakersfield College is not yet able to offer, allowing BC students to complete a higher number of our programs fully online.

**Healthy Growth in Distance Education:**
In the 2016 to 2017 academic year, the college continued its healthy growth across all types of distance education, including hybrid and interactive television courses. This academic year, the number of distance education courses reached 74, for a 3-year growth rate of 25.4%.

The number of sections and enrollments both grew significantly, with a three-year growth rate of 61.8% and 49.6%, respectively.

The overall FTES growth over the same three year period was 37.4%.

Despite the rapid growth, Bakersfield College has also improved metrics related to students success across distance education modalities.

Student attrition rates fell by almost four percentage points during the three year period.
At the same time, student retention and student success both increased significantly, while closing the gap between distance education and traditional classes from 7.9% to 5.7% for retention, and 15.6% to 14.6% for success.

These numbers show that for all of our distance education modalities, Bakersfield College is showing growth in the capacity of our distance education programs coupled with more effective teaching strategies, enrollment management, and support services for our distance education students.