Let $F$ be a finite type surface, $\zeta$ a primitive $n$th root of unity. The Kauffman bracket skein algebra $K_\zeta(F)$ is a noncommutative algebra built from equivalence classes of framed links in $F \times [0,1]$ modulo the Kauffman bracket skein relations with the variable set to be $\zeta$. The product comes from stacking. If $n = 2 \pmod{4}$, then the center of $K_\zeta(F)$ is a finite extension of the coordinate ring of the $SL_2\mathbb{C}$-character variety of the fundamental group of $F$. If $n$ is odd, the center of $K_\zeta(F)$ is a finite extension of the coordinate ring of that part of the $PSL_2\mathbb{C}$-character variety of the fundamental group of $F$ coming from representations that lift to $SL_2\mathbb{C}$.

We prove that there is a nonempty Zariski open subset $V_c$ of the maximal spectrum of the center of $K_\zeta(F)$ that parameterizes a family of irreducible representations of $K_\zeta(F)$ all having the same dimension. If $m = \frac{n}{\gcd(n,4)}$, if $n \neq 0 \pmod{4}$, and $F$ has at least one puncture the dimension of these representations is $m^{\frac{-3e(F)-p}{2}}$ where $e(F)$ is the Euler characteristic of $F$ and $p$ is the number of punctures. (Received September 10, 2016)