



EDUCATION

Program gives girls role models

Tim Williams

SISTAS are doin' it for themselves in an award-winning high school program aimed at preparing girls for careers in science and engineering.

A group of 11 girls from six public schools are the first to complete the "STEM Sista" course run by the Northern Advanced Manufacturing Industry Group. STEM refers to science, technology, engineering and maths – areas in which it is often a struggle to interest girls.

The industry group's general manager, Teresa Janowski, said the Year 9 and 10 students were run through a series of workshops at venues such as Adelaide University, UniSA and Technology Park at Mawson Lakes.

They were mentored by young female engineers, toured laboratories and libraries and engaged in a range of career-focused activities ranging from goal-setting to self-presentation.

"A lot of them didn't re-

alise what engineers do and are. They have role models now," said Ms Janowski, who recently won the Future Innovators category in the Women in Innovation SA Awards for STEM Sista.

The students were from schools including Craigmore, Henley, Para Hills, Valley View and Wilderness College.

STEM Sista was funded by a \$20,000 State Government grant. It is hoped private sponsorship will help it expand next year.



Year 9 students Jasmine Thomas and Alice Murphy with their screaming gummy bear experiment as part of the STEM Sista program.

Picture: DYLAN COKER