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Students Graduate From the 2015 KIC iWOMEN Project

They have formed friendships, discovered a range of career opportunities that Kwinana industry has to offer and have become inspired from women working in the current workforce.

In a special ceremony held last night at the Koorliny Arts Centre in Kwinana, 32 female students from local high schools in the area, graduated from the 2015 KIC iWOMEN Project.

The students, who came together from 13 high schools in the Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn areas, were all selected to take part in the prestigious program.

The program aims to provide Year 10 students with the opportunity to explore and understand the significance of industry in the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA), and the broad range of career options available.

Over six days, the students were involved in a variety of activities, which boosted self-confidence and provided a wealth of knowledge about different roles and career pathways that are available for women in industry.

Kwinana Industries Council director Chris Oughton said last night's graduation ceremony highlighted the importance of providing the program, specifically designed for the female students in the area.

"The iWOMEN Project is a great opportunity for the local female students to receive first-hand knowledge about possible career paths that they can strive towards," Mr Oughton said.

"The students in this year's program have embraced all of the activities and are walking away with skills that will help them with future employment opportunities."

"I am confident that the students who graduated last night, will go on use these newly learnt skills in their final years at high school and beyond Year 12, and I am also confident that the iWOMEN Project has had a positive effect on all of the participating students."

During last night's celebration event, students were able to reflect and share their experiences with principals, teachers, parents and community members.

The students spoke about their many team building and leadership activities throughout the program, as well as their industry visits.

Year 10 student Katana Puntigam from Kolbe Catholic College said that the iWOMEN Project had opened her eyes to a world of careers, she had never considered prior to the program.

“This program has taught me a lot of things and helped me to think about which career path I want to go down,” Katana said.

“I have enjoyed meeting new friends and getting out of my comfort zone.”

“It has been an amazing experience and I have learnt to take every opportunity that comes my way.”

During the program, the students were involved in a variety of activities, including introductions with current employees from KIA companies, including CSBP, Fremantle Ports and the BP Refinery.

Activities included industry visits, workshop sessions on social media, resume preparation, meeting women in industry, industry review and research, plus a visit of The Leeuwin whilst in Fremantle.

The number of women who have participated in the program since its inception in 2012, will reach 100 this year, an incredible achievement for the KIC.

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