



# Filmmaker Streamlines Production

Quick Start helps plastic film company implement new computer system

An established film extrusion firm in Wilkes County is among the first beneficiaries of Quick Start's services available to existing industry. Pliant Corp., one of the largest employers in Washington, Ga., makes plastic film liners for diapers and medical products.

Through contacts at Athens Technical College, the company sought Quick Start's services to help upgrade an older computer system to a new system that would document inventory and cost of production more efficiently.

Under the new system, a computer terminal is installed at each line, with employees entering data and tracking production in real time. A team from Pliant's headquarters in Salt Lake City had come in to collect the data and build the system. But

before the new system could "go live," some workers needed training in computer basics. It needed to be done fast, and for a lot of people.


"We realized that employees would first need basic computer

training to get the fear of the mouse and keyboard out of the way," recalls B.C. Kennedy, who coordinated the project as Pliant's training manager, but has since become the company's environmental and safety manager.

After identifying and training those who didn't have basic computer skills, Quick Start began training on the new system. In the end, 123 employees took the introductory computer class, and a total of 240 were trained on the system.

Another problem was space. With this many people to train, Quick Start needed a large facility. The local high school, Washington-Wilkes High School, stepped up and offered its four computer labs containing 20 computers each.

In six days the training was completed. The new system went live in January. "When we did start it up, we had one day person and one night person on the floor from Quick Start," Kennedy says. "They were in here like clockwork. It all went really well." Quick Start also created a manual for Pliant to use in training future employees.

Says Kennedy of Quick Start, "All the people are excellent. Their goal is to reach your goals." 



Top: Wesley Echols (foreground) and Nick Graves operate a line at Pliant. Above: Pliant's B.C. Kennedy (left), who coordinated the Quick Start training, observes Marvin Blackburn (center) at work on the new computer system. Looking on is Tommy Lyon, program manager at Athens Tech.