

## New Project Specialist Hired to Pollywog Staff

When Cathy Corkery left us, we were a little concerned that it would take a lot of time and energy to find a replacement who could hit the ground running and keep us on schedule. I am happy to report that we lucked out and found a replacement in a few short weeks! On October 2nd, we will be welcoming our new Pollywog Project Specialist to the staff: Cheryl French. Cheryl brings a wealth of experience, including a law degree and years of work as a professional artist! (She's an eclectic mix, but we like that about her!) Cheryl has lived locally for many years and is coming to us from the Corvallis Arts Center. She knows many of the local partners and has personal experience in our communities. She is going to be a marvelous addition, and we look forward to introducing her around.

### What's Happening

- ✓ An initial meeting has been held with Lincoln County Partners to get them ready for the pilot process to begin.
- ✓ VistaLogic just released a new version of their software, which offers some new features to us with the Pollywog database. We are excited to test some of these new product developments.
- ✓ The next Quarterly Report to the IHN-CCO about the status of the Pollywog Project is coming up in October.
- ✓ We are still planning on holding a Partners Meeting in October, but are holding off setting a date until we get our new Project Specialist, Cheryl, on-board.



On Wednesday, September 20th, the Pollywog Staff set up a display table in the courtyard to welcome new students to Linn-Benton Community College, and let them know about the Pollywog Project. Sheri Branigan spent several hours "working the crowd." (According to LBCC statistics, the average LBCC student is 27 years old, and has children.)

## Early Learning Funders Collaborative

On Wednesday, September 20th, Kristi May and LeAnne Trask traveled to Portland to take part in the Oregon and SW Washington Early Learning Funders Collaborative. Only four groups from around the state were invited to give a presentation about their project and its overlap with the OPEC Hub and their CCO. It was a big honor to be selected, and our team gave three presentations: an outline of the demographics of our region, how The Pollywog Project came about, a brief overview of our website and database, and how the process is working in our region. The 40+ funders in attendance asked lots of questions, and congratulated us on the innovation and potential of our project.