For close to six decades, Ivymount has invested in our staff’s expertise and innovative, outcome-driven programming that is grounded in special education research for students with developmental disabilities, their families and our community.

With the support of the Tull Grant, The Ivymount Foundation, and other generous donors, we have been able to provide staff with fellowships and other resources such as training, tools and mentorship through our Investing in Excellence Staff Fund. This fund has supported effective innovation and dissemination across our programs while maintaining Ivymount’s day-to-day excellence.

In December 2018, we formally developed the IvyShares Initiative based on the many years of successful outcomes we have generated with the support of our donors. The IvyShares Initiative ensures that we provide quality programs across Ivymount, Maddux, and Outreach; create opportunities for staff development; increase the community’s access to our specialized knowledge, services and products; and broadly support our mission.

**Sharing Across the Ivymount Corporate Programs**

*Ensures that expertise is effectively shared throughout Ivymount*

IvyShares ensures effective evidence-based programs and services are developed to support students with development disabilities and their families. The Ivymount School, The Maddux School, and Outreach Programs include a variety of specialized programs, departments and services that all work together to provide high-quality education and support for students and their families. Our staff develop educational programming based on best available research in the field combined with data-based decision making, professional expertise, and our students’ and families’ values and preferences. When the existing research does not meet the unique needs of our students, staff create innovative practices and packages. These are first developed and evaluated within one of Ivymount’s programs or departments, and are then shared across other Ivymount programs and evaluated in a variety of settings prior to broader dissemination, in some cases, within the special education community.

**Sharing with the Special Education Community**

*Supports sharing Ivymount’s expertise with the broader community*

IvyShares builds a professional community both within and outside of Ivymount and showcases exceptional achievements. Dissemination may include development of services for our outreach programs or professional services for other schools and professionals, conference presentations, peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, curriculum manuals (original or adapted from existing curricula for use with special populations), assessment tools, symposia/workshops, and training packages.

**Creating Professional Opportunities for Staff**

*Invests in our staff through professional development and benefits*

IvyShares provides professional development, interdisciplinary team work opportunities and benefits for staff such as fellowships, grant authorship/acknowledgement, opportunities to attend and/or present at professional conferences, and opportunities to become an Outreach Program trainer or group leader.