“High school was a whirlwind,” Dylan Campbell TC ’22 recalls. “When I was working twenty hours a week, juggling extracurriculars, and keeping up with a heavy course load, college seemed like a distant, unobtainable future, with application deadlines looming.”

But it wasn’t just a busy schedule that caused the Mobile, Alabama, native to regard applying to college with trepidation. “As a first-generation, low-income (FGLI) student, I was plagued with a crushing sense of inadequacy,” he reflects. “Applying to a school like Yale hardly crossed my mind. Not only did getting into one seem like a long shot, but affording it? Forget it.”

Dylan credits QuestBridge—a nonprofit that helps FGLI students apply to the nation’s top colleges—for changing his perspective. “When I discovered QuestBridge, I figured I’d give it a try, but I still wasn’t sure anything would come out of it. Then I got into Yale.”

Now Dylan wants to pay his experiences forward. “My time here has taught me that I have something to contribute to Yale and to the world. I’m thrilled to be involved in a program called Matriculate. We advise and mentor FGLI high school students through the college application process.

“Matriculate is just one of many opportunities that Yale has opened up for me. I have remarkable freedom to dive into my studies, I participate in weekly service projects, and I’m considering studying abroad this summer. I’m looking forward to what’s on the horizon.”

A Nathan Hale Associates scholarship is helping to fund Dylan’s first year at Yale. “I can’t express enough thanks to the donors who make Yale possible for me and other Yalies,” he says. “You’ve given me this chance, and I am using it to help as many people as I can. You’re changing lives.”

Donors make it possible for exceptional students like Dylan to attend Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.