In his application to The Steppingstone Academy, an ambitious 10-year-old wrote: “As Nelson Mandela said, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.’ And education is that one thing that will change my world.”

It sure did.

Ambrose Faturoti was off and running. He was accepted to The Steppingstone Academy in 1992 and after 14 months of hard work in the program, he enrolled at the Noble & Greenough School. About his time at Steppingstone, Ambrose says, “It is *literally* a steppingstone to your future. It provides an opportunity for a world-class education that you may not have had. Everyone is so invested in you and your education—teachers, mentors, staff, and other students.” After high school, Ambrose earned an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree in English at the University of Virginia, eventually returning to Nobles as an English teacher, where he taught several Steppingstone Scholars.

Deeply committed to community service, Ambrose pursued another master’s degree, this time in theology, at Boston College. While at BC, he started the process of applying for a Ph.D. in ethics at several graduate schools. But the further along he got, the more he came to realize that this degree would lead him down a path of academia rather than direct service. “I was afraid I would be too far removed from the people I wanted to serve.” It was at this time that he learned of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become the Special Assistant to the Governor of Massachusetts. He was just one credit shy of earning his master’s in theology, but the opportunity seemed too good to pass up.

After a rigorous and competitive application process, Ambrose was selected to serve as Special Assistant to Governor Deval Patrick. In this role, Ambrose was the Governor’s “right-hand man” and was with the Governor at all times—at meetings, in the car, at events, even during a visit to the White House. What he appreciated the most was sitting in on the Governor’s meetings with various groups and turning their issues and problems into action items. He says, “What I love about the idea of government is that it is a group of people putting their heads together to solve societal problems.”

Recently, Ambrose was promoted to lead the development and implementation of the Governor’s Urban Agenda. In his new role, he works with urban communities and serves as a liaison and advocate for issues including public health, public safety, education, jobs, and economic development, among others. Ambrose will ensure that the more than 40 different types of investments made in urban communities in Massachusetts are effective and producing real and positive change. It’s the kind of job he’s always dreamed of.

As for the future, Ambrose is considering going back to school to pursue a degree in public policy. He’s also working with his former advisor at Boston College to complete the final credit he needs to finish his master’s in theology.

It’s not unlikely that someday, prospective Steppingstone Scholars will be quoting Ambrose Faturoti in their applications.