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**Tilton Student Samuel Alicéa '18 Speaks at January 21 Women's Event in Concord**

**TILTON, NH** – In front of an estimated crowd of more than 5,000 people on the steps of the New Hampshire State House this weekend, Tilton School student Samuel Alicéa '18 from Boscawen, shared his story of courage and perseverance and the women who inspired him to take a stand.

Samuel was on stage with his grandmother, N.H. State Representative Caroletta Alicéa, and mother, Stephanie Alicéa, during the opening ceremony at the New Hampshire Women's Day of Action and Unity on Saturday, January 21. The event was held in conjunction with the Women's March on Washington and dozens of similar protests across the country and the world.

Samuel was invited to speak about his experience last fall when he chose to take a knee during the National Anthem before the Homecoming football game at his former high school, and the negative backlash he received. His protest was in response to the recent killings across the country of black men, women and children by police officers.

"I often felt that I do not do enough to create that social change that I look for in our society; the changes that I seek in our country," Samuel told the crowd on Saturday. "I decided the best way to protest was peacefully," he said. "I felt that the most peaceful thing to do was to take a knee, so that's what I did.

"But I'm here today to say that we the people can no longer stay silent about the constant and glaring injustices in this society. And we the people will not in any way whatsoever allow anyone, trying to fill our lives with negative and destructive thoughts, control our choices."

With his mother and grandmother standing behind him, Samuel continued:

“I was brought into this world and grown up ever since with my grandmother and my mother. These two strong strong-willed women have taught me many life lessons, the most important of which is to respect women. To all women, I admire your perseverance and your tenacity in the face of adversity. I look out into this crowd and I know you’re all proud of who you are, as well. And that’s why you chose to come here today, to stand together, united,” he said.

Samuel joined Tilton School in November 2016 and is a junior. To watch his speech from January 21, visit the Tilton School YouTube channel, Tilton School 1845, at <https://youtu.be/wTwnkEaghRg>.

Tilton School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school serving 260 students in grades 9 - 12 and postgraduate from 18 states and 17 countries. For more information, visit [tiltonschool.org](http://tiltonschool.org) or contact Angie Cairns, director of communications at 603-286-1741 or [acairns@tiltonschool.org](mailto:acairns@tiltonschool.org)

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**Photo:**

Samuel Alicéa on the steps of the New Hampshire State House during the New Hampshire Women’s Day of Action and Unity, Saturday, January 21, 2017. His grandmother, N.H. State Representative Caroletta Alicéa, and mother, Stephanie Alicéa, stand behind him.