

NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE
Office of Cocurricular Programs

December 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Kimberly Rivers Roberts, subject and star of the documentary film *Trouble the Water*, as a guest speaker for speaking engagements. The 2010 Tulane Reading Project, which featured Dave Eggers' Katrina-themed work *Zeitoun*, presented a screening of *Trouble the Water* in Freeman Auditorium on the Tulane campus in November. Along with her husband Scott Roberts, their friend Brian Nobles, and filmmakers Tia Lessin and Carl Deal, Ms. Roberts took part in a Q&A session following the film; when she rose from her seat to walk to the stage, audience members gave her a standing ovation, and one gave her a hug as she passed.

It's clear that Ms. Roberts' powerful story resonates with audiences, and the Q&A session made it clear that *Trouble the Water* was only the beginning of the story that Ms. Roberts has to tell. Articulate and passionate, she speaks from experience and from the heart about the vicious cycle of poverty that leaves so many Americans forgotten and betrayed. Ms. Roberts' background and talent for self-expression would make her an excellent panelist or guest speaker for a wide variety of topics, from urban studies to sociology.

Tulane's daily e-newsletter, the *New Wave*, covered the campus screening in an article that can be found online at http://tulane.edu/news/newwave/121010_trouble.cfm. I would be happy to discuss Ms. Roberts' speaking qualifications further; I can be reached by phone at 504-314-2806 or by email at tbeck@tulane.edu.

Sincerely,



Trina J. Beck
Director, Newcomb-Tulane College Programs

Please note our new URL: <http://college.tulane.edu/programs.htm>