

**For Immediate Release**

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**Academy Award Winning Filmmaker Comes To East Carolina University**

On Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 from 7:00-8:00 PM, filmmaker, activist and grassroots organizer Barbara Trent will present the School of Art and Design's Global Awareness Lecture at the Speight Auditorium in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

Trent's presentation entitled "Waging Peace In A Global World" will address current events, activism, media hypocrisy, and the responsibility and power we each have to create change. She will discuss the interconnections between our unravelling ecosystem, our failing economy, and our reliance on war in a time when only peace and justice can sustain us.

Trent's presentation is an increasingly crucial counter-message to the wars on terrorism, drugs, the poor, and the planet. Trent sheds light on the rising resistance and dissent around the world and the hopeful movement towards a more just and sustainable world.

Drawing on nearly a half century of experience as a grassroots organizer, activist, and filmmaker, Academy Award winner Barbara Trent brings a rare approach to today's events. Her presentation is graced with the emotion of a woman who has seen the front lines here and abroad. Footage from some of her recent films will accompany her comments.

A seasoned activist and filmmaker, Barbara Trent won an Oscar in 1993 for the documentary, *The Panama Deception*, and has both directed and produced other films including *Waging Peace*, *Destination Nicaragua*, and *Coverup: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair*. She has publicly exposed criminal activities at the highest level of government and has been the target of at least three FBI counter-intelligence operations. Appointed as an Expert Senior Training Specialist for the VISTA Program under Jimmy Carter, Ms. Trent has been decorated with the Gaspar Octavio Hernandez Award by the Journalist's Union in Panama, and is a recipient of the American Humanist Association's Arts Award for her "courageous advocacy of progressive ideas."

The Empowerment Project is a media resource center serving progressive videographers and filmmakers. It produces and distributes its own documentary films and videos and provides support for independent producers, artists, activists and organizations to further important social, political and artistic purposes. Several years ago, EP founded Old Oak Homestead, a five-acre homestead that provides training in homesteading skills and renewable energy options as a means to create sustainable communities. self-sustainability and organic growing methods. For more information, visit [www.empowermentproject.org](http://www.empowermentproject.org).