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**Historically Black Colleges awarded \$4,000 in grants
to use award-winning documentary, *The New Black*,
to advance on-campus LGBT inclusion**

Brooklyn, NY - Promised Land Film is pleased to announce that in partnership with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, it has awarded \$4,000 in grants to four historically black colleges and universities to use the award winning documentary, *The New Black* as a tool to advance on-campus LGBT inclusion. *The New Black* is nationally recognized for its engagement of black, LGBT and faith communities around the intersections of race, religion and sexual orientation.

The groundbreaking grants, given through a partnership between Promised Land Film's "Empowering Equality" and HRC Foundation's HBCU Campuses initiatives are being awarded to Alabama State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Spelman College, and Tennessee State University.

The documentary, directed by Yoruba Richen, explores how race, faith, justice, and identity intersected in Maryland's politically powerful African American community in 2012 as the state prepared to vote on marriage equality. The colleges and universities will screen the documentary, and hold events and discussions around it.

Promised Land Film and the HRC Foundation view their effort as one that will encourage meaningful conversations on historically Black campuses around the intersections of racial and LGBT justice.

"I'm impressed with the creative and innovative ways the colleges and universities want to use the film to foster awareness of LGBT issues and create more welcoming campuses," Richen said. "This is exactly the kind of HBCU partnership I envisioned when I made the film, and it is especially meaningful that these fall screenings and events will take place in the South - the cradle of our civil rights movement."

In announcing the grant winners, Samantha Master, the HRC Foundation's Youth and Campus Engagement Manager, said: "Engaging in meaningful dialogue at HBCUs is an important tool in helping develop a cadre of empowered student leaders with an intersectional understanding of justice." Maryland voters approved marriage equality in 2012. Since then, 10 additional states have legalized marriage equality.

The New Black has screened in more than 85 cities around the country through ITVS's Community Cinema public education and civic engagement initiative. The documentary has garnered numerous awards, including the Audience Award at Philadelphia QFest, AFI Docs and Frameline International LGBT Film Festival, where it also received an honorable mention as Outstanding Documentary Feature. At New York City's Urbanworld Film Festival, it won the jury award for Best Documentary Feature. *The New Black* was nominated for a 2014 NAACP Image Award and a 2014 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Documentary.

Promised Land Film is a documentary film company dedicated to creating compelling, engaging films that explore the vital social issues of our time

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