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The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, is pleased to announce that it has awarded, in partnership with Promised Land Film, grants to three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to use the award-winning documentary, *The New Black*, as a tool to advance on-campus LGBT inclusion.

The groundbreaking grants, provided through a partnership between HRC Foundation's HBCU Campuses and Promised Land Film's "Empowering Equality on HBCU Campuses" initiative, were awarded to Howard University School of Law, Morgan State University and North Carolina A&T 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 universities will screen the documentary and hold events and panel discussions in conjunction with the screenings.

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

"It is both humbling and inspiring to see the creative and innovative ways our grantee colleges and universities plan to use *The New Black* to raise awareness and foster greater LGBT acceptance on their campuses," said Richen. "This is an historic moment, one in which we are witnessing a dedicated effort to overturn both longstanding and recent civil rights gains made by both black and LGBT people. The ongoing fight for equality makes these screenings and the conversations they provoke not only timely but critical, and we're proud to partner with HRC on this incredibly necessary effort."

In announcing the grant winners, Samantha Master, 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, a total of 37 states have legalized marriage equality.

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