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Biography

Claudia S. Plaisted Fernandez DrPH, MS, RD, LDN ***FSLI Leadership Core Director***

Claudia Fernandez is a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the top- ranked public school of public health in the country. She currently serves as the Director of Executive Leadership Development for UNC. She specializes in helping leaders meet the challenges of running complex organizations, communicating to public and media audiences, and engaging employees. She is the co-author of *It-Factor Leadership: Become a Better Leader in 13 Steps*.



Dr. Fernandez has extensive experience developing custom executive education programs that focus on personal leadership development, innovation, and business skills for senior, middle, and front-line managers and leaders. For the past 20 years she has served as the Director of the Leadership Core for the Food Systems Leadership Institute (www.FSLI.org), the flagship leadership program of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) serving academic Deans, Heads, and Vice Presidents, industry and government leaders. For the past 19 years she has directed the ACOG International Leadership Institute for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and for the past eight years she has served as Co-Director and Co-PI for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Clinical Scholars National Leadership Institute (ClinicalScholarsNLI.org). She is an executive coach and certified in a wide range of leadership and psychological assessment tools, including 360 assessments, the EQi-2.0 Emotional Intelligence Instrument, the FIRO-B, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Change Style Indicator, the Decision Style Profile, the Paper Planes, Inc. simulation, the Thomas Kilmann Conflict Instrument, the Dennison Organizational Culture Survey, The FourSight tool, The Influence Style Indicator, the Poverty Simulation, and the CPI 260 and the Coaching Report for Leaders.

Dr. Fernandez is also a licensed and Registered Dietitian, and as such has a particular interest in leadership in healthcare systems and high-performing healthcare and public health teams. She earned her doctorate in public health leadership and health policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Fernandez is also a two-time national literary finalist in fiction, in 2023 and 2024.

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