Erica Partosoedarso was born in Madison, Wisconsin, where her parents were Ph.D. scholarship students at the University of Wisconsin. Because of this experience, her father was determined that his children study abroad.

Not knowing anyone, Partosoedarso left her home in Indonesia to attend the University of Adelaide in South Australia, a move that was very isolating at first to the reluctant trailblazer. Over time she made friends and established herself, thus preparing the way for her siblings to attend school.

After earning a BSc in mathematics, Partosoedarso obtained an MA in mathematics at the University of Indiana in Bloomington in 1986.

Her younger sister, Elita, spoke of Partosoedarso's generosity and commitment to education. Partosoedarso provided education funding for her younger siblings' children and, before she died, established an educational fund in Indonesia with her mother. In the spirit of Partosoedarso's "pay-it-forward" philosophy, the fund stipulates that each scholarship winner sponsor two other scholars to go to university. Two people have since graduated using the fund.

Partosoedarso is survived by her mother, her siblings and their spouses and children. She was preceded in death by her father. Her husband, Michael Lomax, FIA, died in the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001.