Dr. Patty Lopez hails from Española, New Mexico. Her love for NMSU started at age 15 during a state 4-H competition held on campus. She toured Milton Hall with friends, envisioning what it would be like to attend NMSU. She ended up winning the state competition and competed nationally at the 4-H Conference in Chicago - all of which created lasting, positive memories of NMSU that led her to become an Aggie.

After graduating with three computer science degrees from NMSU – a bachelor’s degree in 1980, a master’s degree in 1982 and a doctorate in 1989 – Dr. Lopez first took her talents to HP where she spent 19 years as an imaging scientist and software developer, earning seven patents, and then to Intel, where she’s worked for the past 10 years. Today, she is a senior platform applications engineer in the corporation’s datacenter application and engineering group. She describes these centers as “the clouds that store all your data.”

Since 2000, Dr. Lopez has served on multiple boards at NMSU, including those for computer science and engineering. She has served on the NMSU Foundation Board of Directors and has spoken to students and faculty on campus about graduate school, minority participation and computing opportunities. Dr. Lopez also started an NMSU scholarship memorializing her parents in 2006 that supports minority computing and engineering students who attend NMSU.

In 2015, Dr. Lopez received the Society of Women Engineers’ Advocating Women in Engineering Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated professional excellence in their chosen STEM fields and have proven to be advocates of women in engineering and SWE’s objectives.

Dr. Lopez is the daughter of Ross and Lydia Lopez. She now lives in Colorado with her husband Bob Fink and has three children – Marisa, Maya and Samuel.