Dr. Yura, Senior Vice President for the NBSP, West Virginia Operations, oversees all West Virginia activities for the NBSP involving collaboration with West Virginia University (WVU) and its Biometric Systems Program in the Lane Department of CS&EE. Dr. Yura works closely with WVU Biometric Knowledge Center and the WVU Center for ID Technology, Research (CITeR) and the DoD Biometric Fusion Center of the Biometric Management Office (BMO) for the Department of the Army as part of its WV activities.

Prior to joining NBSP Dr. Yura was the first Director of the Forensic Identification Program at WVU where he facilitated a Memorandum of understanding between WVU and the FBI to fill an international void in training and degree programs by creating degree programs in Forensic and Investigative Science and in Biometric Systems. During this period two additional government-academia partnerships at WVU were created: WVU is the home of the Center for Identification Technology Research (CITeR) under a National Science Foundation-sponsored Industry-University Collaboration in Biometrics; and the National Security Agency designated WVU’s Information Assurance (IA) Program as a Center of Excellence in IA Education.

Dr. Yura started his career at West Virginia University in 1971, where he was a full professor in the Counseling Psychology Department. He earned his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University.

The National Biometric Security Project (NBSP) was created after September 11, 2001 to assist all non-defense agencies, civilian governments and the private sector to integrate biometrics into their security system to protect the nation’s critical infrastructure. The presentation will outline the role and function of NBSP in various areas such as standards, testing, privacy, training and education and research. Discussion of current federal identity assurance programs involving biometrics will also be presented. The role of new and innovative future biometrics and their role in critical infrastructure protection will also be discussed. One final area of discussion will be the collaboration between CMU and NBSP and the potential opportunities in the areas of research and education.